

CENTENNIAL



Volume 1, Issue I

Centennial Edition

1981

CELEBRATE WESTON'S 100th BIRTHDAY

Weston Takes Pride in It's Heritage

Whether you were raised in Weston, or just have moved into the area, you know there is something different.

Most Metropolitan Toronto suburbs, be they boroughs, former towns or neighbourhoods, just merge into the urban setting mold. But Weston is different. It has kept its small town flavour.

Perhaps it is because so many of us have never left and remember our town. Perhaps it is because those who have just moved into Weston get caught up in the fold. Those people want to belong and contribute. They want to know what their community is all about.

There is a tremendous sense of pride in this community.

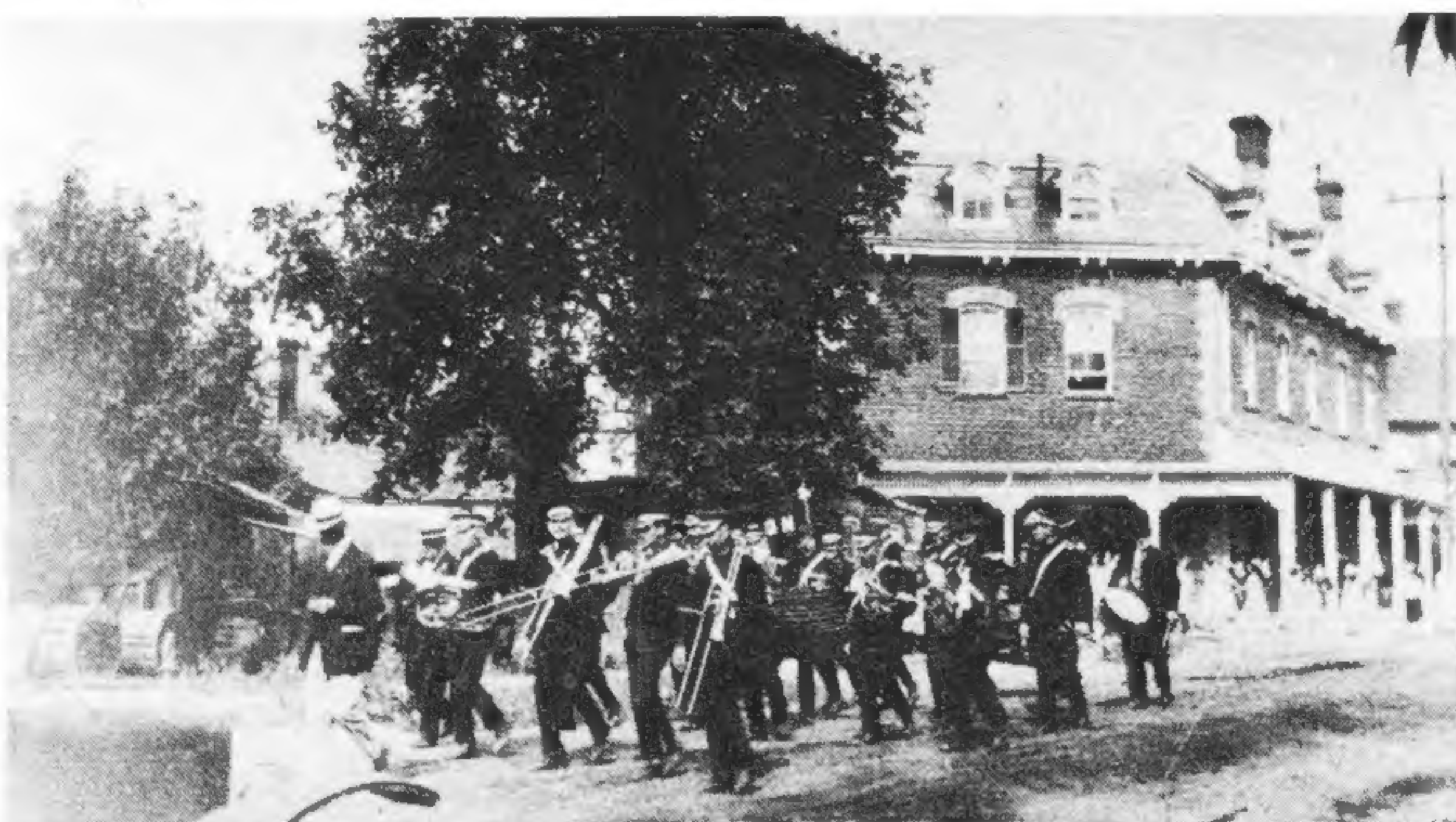
Perhaps it is an off-shoot of the popular TV series, "Roots." Today people want to know their origins; what their towns, villages, cities were like years ago; who owned their house. They are curious about the kind of people who went before them.

It's obvious when you read these pages and subsequent history accounts that our pioneer stock were adventurous, brave and steadfast. Once they took the gamble, they worked at it.

Can you image walking along the Humber River banks, in the 1790's, the forests full of walnut and pine trees, watching salmon leaping in the rushing water. That would give you the impetus to stay.

But once you have stayed, can you imagine the sheer loneliness encountered, knowing that the nearest settlement, Toronto, is almost 20 miles away, down roads that amounted to dirt trails.

Most of our settlers were immigrants from Britain, who had never seen our Canadian wildlife. There is an account, in the History of Weston, of people



And the band played on and marched at the turn of the century. The town band has just rounded the corner of Weston Rd. and Lawrence and could be heading for the Fair Grounds, where sports activities such as lacrosse and some competitive horse races took place on weekends.

staying close to home for a number of days because of marauding wolves.

Once the settlement became more populated, a village of sorts was formed, mainly because of the employment at grist and lumber mills.

In 1881, the settlement became officially known as the Village of Weston.

Those that stayed in Weston and were successful, gave freely of their talents and money. You will find in these pages, such accounts of people serving years on councils and school boards. You will also find that most public institutions such as churches and schools were started and maintained by private subscription.

That flavour has been the theme of Weston. Even in the post W.W.II days, if Westonians wanted something, they went door-to-door, raising funds.

For example, there were some citizens who mortgaged their homes for the Weston Arena. People gave heavily and often to the Humber Memorial Hospital building fund. These efforts were for the community good. It still goes on today.

Weston Rd. merchants pay a special business tax to provide the beautification of the commercial core, located between Wilby Cres. and King St. They thought the Farmers' Market a good idea and now operate this colourful enterprise on Saturdays during summer and fall months on the John St. parking lot.

Our citizens give freely of their time to our recreational needs, organizing and operating our individual and team sports. Many are volunteers for organizations like the United Way, the Cancer Society, Red Cross and Meals on Wheels. Some are members of service clubs such as the Rotary and Lions Clubs. The Weston Ratepayers has a membership of over 200 families.

Weston is proud of its citizens' contributions not only to our physical area, but to greater fields.

We have had people leave our schools who have taught university in Canada and abroad, contributed to the music and medical world, explored and opened the North West Territories, worked on NASA space projects and represented our nation as an ambassador. We are citizens of the world.

Many companies such as Moffat Stoves (now G.S.W.) C.C.M. and Facelle, all attracted by the excellent railway service, have put Weston on the map, Canada wide.

This is our year. Although Weston has been an integral part of the Borough of York for 14 years as Ward Six, it still has its identity.

The Centennial Committee hopes that all friends of Weston will come and participate in the many events planned in June... and most of all, enjoy it with us.

Weston Centennial Street Signs

Available at Borough of York Works Department Counter.
2700 Eglinton Ave. West.
8:30 a.m. — 4:30 p.m.

Aluminum sign, identical to ones located at intersections, printed both sides \$12.
Bristol board signs, painted one side only, suitable for wall mounting \$2.

We would like to thank...

This paper and other Centennial projects have been made possible by generous donations from: The Weston Business Improvement Area; Wintario; the Borough of York; the Bank of Nova Scotia; the Bank of Montreal; Gresco Distributing Co.; Facelle Co. Ltd.; Ward Broome Ltd.; Cruickshank Motors Ltd.; Weston Machine and Tool Ltd.; Nei Canada Ltd.; Weston Marine and Sports Inc.; Robertson Electric Wholesale; Parr Industries Ltd.; Maxwell Plumbing and Heating Co. Ltd.; Paramount Industries; Lewis Paper Wholesale Ltd.; The Arthur Press (1978) Limited. Moore Business Forms.

Sing Along With the Centennial Song

by Eleanor Edwards,
H.J. Alexander School

Weston Centennial Song

Oh We've been proud of Weston
For a hundred years and more.
From a countryman's first saw-mill
To the sound of the city's roar.

From the first church, a long cabin,
To the mighty spires we see
Our historic homes still standing
In proud array for thee.

There are many who have loved you.

They were early pioneers.
For the streets now bear the proud names
Of those long gone from here.

You have weathered well,
Dear Weston.
From floods and fires you've survived
From wars and demolition
To a Centennial you've arrived.



Dr. F.D. Cruickshank

Weston's leading expert on area history will be the honorary chairman of this year's centennial celebrations.

Dr. Fred Cruickshank will lead off the June 13 parade. Dr. Cruickshank was born at home on the Humber river bank, near the Weston Rd., Church St. intersection, a location where he has maintained an active medical practice for 59 years.

In 1937, he published the "History of Weston", a volume on our lumbermen and miller founding fathers who were attracted to this beautifully wooded river ravine.

A member of the Weston Board of Education for 25 years, Dr. Cruickshank recently published a history of the Weston Golf and Country Club.



Dr. Fred Cruickshank



This large, imposing two family dwelling, located at the corner of King St. and Rosemount Ave., was the location of Trinity College during the 1866-71 period. The school moved to Port Hope after this last Weston home. The school was founded in Weston in 1858.

COMPLETE WESTON WALKING TOUR GUIDE INSIDE
SEE PAGES 8 and 9.

CENTENNIAL

The Weston Centennial Committee would like to thank the many citizens who contributed articles to this newspaper. The views and remembrances are those of the authors and have not been checked for historical accuracy. However, we hope you will find them as interesting and entertaining as we have. . . The Public Relations Committee.



Weston, Child Of The River, Place Of The Mind

Early in the 19th century Weston was described as "the most important place on the Humber River." Indeed, Weston was a child of the river, like many other villages of the period.

While Weston no longer exists as a municipality, its history remains in the minds of many who live in the area. What was known as Weston in early years is now split by the same Humber River into a part of Etobicoke and a part of York.

Rivers were an important source of many things to pioneers — power for mills, food and transportation. The Humber abounded with salmon, wild game roamed the forested banks and the waterfalls were capable of being dammed for power.

John Collins in his Survey of the Humber reported to Governor John Simcoe in 1792 that "fine stands of timber exist about seven miles up the Toronto River", as the Humber was then known. Simcoe chose a site for settlement near the point where Lawrence Ave. crosses the Humber today and named it "Humber", and renamed the river at the same time, in 1796.

At the turn of the 19th century, sawmills for the plentiful timber and grist mills for flour, began to appear on the west bank.

EARLY SETTLER

One of the early known settlers was an enterprising man by the name of David Holly. He left Pennsylvania in 1807, and after a brief period in Vaughan Township with fellow Mennonites, he arrived at "Humber" in 1810.

Holly applied for a Crown Reserve to build a mill to replace an earlier structure. Conrad Countryman had his mill destroyed by fire shortly after it was erected and little is known of him.

Holly constructed his first mill on the west bank, and in the next few years he seems to have been very industrious, building several more. During the War of 1812 these mills supplied the military with both flour and lumber, these were prosperous times for the little settlement. There was growth on both sides of the Humber at this time. James Farr purchased the first of the Holly mills, along with 150 acres on the Etobicoke, or west side, and he named the area Weston, after his home town in England. The property that Farr occupied is now the Weston Golf and Country Club.

The Humber was first spanned by a bridge in 1816, and the roads that connected to the bridge, on both banks became Bridge St., it is now Lawrence Ave. By 1830, mills and other manufacturing stretched from below Lawrence up to Wilson Ave., including coopers for flour barrels and by 1840, a distillery, to the joy of many.

DISPUTES AROSE

Harnessing the river power required many dams which were crowded together and disputes arose among the owners. A man named Wadsworth brought suit against Robert McDougall and won it, shortly afterward acquiring McDougall's property. Justice was done and seen to be done in those days.

Up to the middle 1800's, settlement had mainly been on the lands of the west bank of the river. However, when the post office was located on the east side of the Humber, things began to change. The Weston plank road to connect Weston with Dundas St. also had a great economic impact, and the tide of settlement slowly turned. In April of 1850, a final blow was struck in favor of the higher level east bank. A flood roared down the river carrying with it huge blocks of ice, destroying mills and homes on the lower west bank.

By 1851, most of the demolished businesses had been re-established on the east bank, using the higher ground.

With a population of nearly 1,000 in 1881, Weston was granted village status by incorporation and adopted the motto, "Equal Justice To All." William Tyrrell was elected the first reeve.

THRIVING INDUSTRY

Industry thrived in Weston and the industrial growth brought settlers and workers to the sub-



Weston's original Town Hall, was constructed in 1883, at the corner of Weston Rd. and Little Ave. This handsome edifice contained the general municipal offices, the council chamber and the Mechanic's Institute on the main floor. The second floor was entirely occupied by Dufferin Hall, used for plays, concerts and public oratory. This building was unfortunately demolished in the 50's to make way for the newer Town Hall located at 2000 Weston Rd.

...AND YOU THINK YOU'VE GOT IT BAD

By-law 9
Feb. 13, 1882

To protect highways, sidewalks and trees.

- 1.—fee in lieu of statute labour — \$1.50
- 2.—not lawful to drive cattle on sidewalks
- 3.—not lawful to injure trees
- 4.—not lawful to block roads, lanes, etc.
- 5.—fine of from \$2 — \$20 for above offences

By-law 12
March 10, 1882

To provide for the preservation of public morals in the Municipality of Weston.

- 1.—not lawful to sell or give intoxicating drinks to children, idiots, insane persons, etc.
- 2.—not lawful to post indecent placards, etc. on any walls, fences, or Public Highways
- 3.—no swearing
- 4.—not lawful to drink on a Public Highway
- 5.—"it shall not be lawful for any person to keep a disorderly house or a house of ill fame, or allow or harbour persons of bad character either male or female to frequent his or her house."
- 6.—not lawful to keep a gambling house
- 7.—not lawful for vagrants to be drunk in the street

- 8.—"It shall not be lawful for any person to indecently expose his or her person near any public highway or other public place by bashing, beating or otherwise between the hours of seven in the morning and eight in the evening
- 9.—not lawful to race with horses in the street
- 10.—\$2 — \$40 or 21 days if no \$ or chattels

By-law 13

To suppress the spread of Canada Thistles
—amended by #325
—presented by Jacob Bull

urban atmosphere. While industry made the east bank home, many homes were built on the west bank and what we know as the Westmount section of the then — Township of Etobicoke.

In 1915 Weston was accorded the status of town, and Dr. W.J. Charlton was the first mayor.

The final chapter in the political history of Weston as a separate town ended on Jan. 1, 1967, when amalgamation of the 13 Metropolitan Toronto towns and townships were consolidated into six municipalities with Weston integrating into the Borough of York on the east bank. The area on the west bank was already part of Etobicoke. Whatever side of the Humber they live on, many of the residents of the area still say they are "from Weston."

By Jim Gunn, Courtesy, Etobicoke Guardian.

Jim Cove Created... Artistry in Riverstone

by Elsie MacPherson

Around the year, 1926, Mr. James Gove emigrated to Canada from England, and settled in Weston. This marked the beginning, of the appearance of beautiful stone walls, around many of the large homes, in Weston. James Gove was a Master Stonemason, an artist in his craft, and the lovely river stones, hauled from the Humber River, were used by him, to enhance the front entrances of old and new buildings. The addition of well designed verandas, and steps of the attractive stone created a new form to old homes which we knew would last forever. After the second war, a War Memorial was designed by Tiny

Shaw, of the Royal Can. Legion Branch, 213. This was then created, in stone, by Jim Gove, who was also a Legion member. The beautiful stone wall which surrounds the park, on Little Ave. was added. This park now called Memorial Park, is truly a memorial in the finest way to Tiny and Jim, and all veterans, who fought to keep this glorious Canada of ours, free.

The Gove family lived in a large house on Weston Rd. at Fern Ave. and Jim could often be seen, in his retirement years, strolling the streets of Weston with his faithful dog.

St. Philip's Church Established Weston's Educational Standards

From 1838 or earlier, St. Philip's congregation met in private homes or halls until their first church was constructed in 1831, on land donated by Edward and Thomas Musson.

Circuit preachers served the congregation, in this church of barn and siding construction, until the first resident minister was engaged in 1854.

St. Philip's second minister, the Rev. William Johnson served from 1856-1880. Soon after arriving in Weston, Dr. Johnson began to hold additional services in the village, in the new brick Common school which was also used for Sunday School and Vestry meetings.

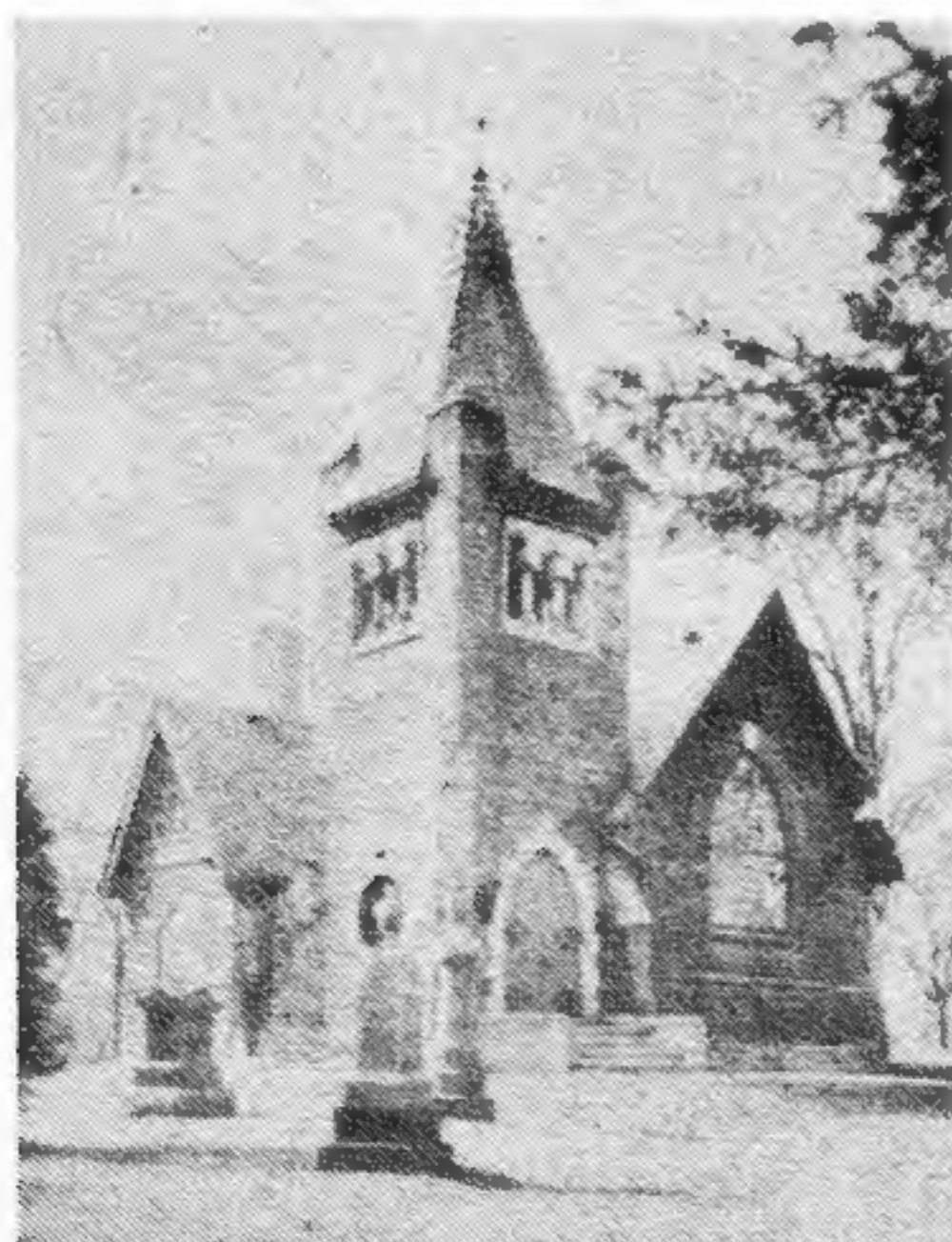
Entirely at his own expense, with much of the carving done

with his own hands, Dr. Johnson built a chapel beside the parsonage on Rectory Road, in order to celebrate the High Church services which he preferred. His love of ritual and High Church ceremony were at odds with the Low Church preferences of his congregation at St. Philip's. He called this building, the Chapel of Ease.

Concerned that his children have religious as well as secular instruction at school, Dr. Johnson rejected the two existing schools — the Common School and Banks Private School and taught his children at home.

Other parents were anxious to have Dr. Johnson teach their children and when the school burst his study to its seams,

Continued on Page 15.



Although St. Philip's Church is located on the Humber River's west bank in Etobicoke, the congregation originally met on the east bank in north Weston. A parsonage and chapel were built on Rectory Rd. The chapel later became St. John's Anglican Church.



Possibly the oldest house in Weston, 6 Humberview Cres. has been dated back to 1845, but the owners suspect it could date 1828.

Ambition Helped Tyrrell Prosper

Many stories are told of the immigrants to Canada during the 19th century who arrived without a cent in their pockets. Some merely survived while others went on to prosper after desperate struggles in the new land. The story of William Tyrrell isn't quite in this latter category, but it reflects the success that could be achieved if a young man with a little money and a great ambition was alert to the opportunities that did exist.

William was the sixth son of Adam Tyrrell of Grange Castle, County Kildare, Ireland, born in 1816. By the age of 20, Tyrrell had the position of assistant estate manager on the estates of Lord Ponsonby. He was obviously a trusted employee and in the same year, Lord Ponsonby asked him to go to Canada and investigate investment opportunities.

Being a sixth son of an important family in Ireland in those days did not guarantee a good life since the first son usually assumed all the estates and privileges.

Tyrrell is described at this time as more than six feet tall, and having "eyes as blue as the Irish Sea". This handsome young man was given two weeks to make up his mind about going to Canada and in the end decided to stake his future in the new land.

REVEALING LETTERS

Nearly all of the information available about William Tyrrell's adventures in Canada came from letters sent to Ireland in the first few years of his residence here. These letters were found nearly 50 years ago, and form the basis of a book by Edith L. Morrison and J.E. Middleton entitled *William Tyrrell of Weston*.

The book describes his departure from friends and family at a gala ball when he stealthily rode away with a cousin as the ball was in progress. The two young men went first to Dublin, across the Irish Sea to Liverpool by boat and then took a ship for New York.

They did not lack for money. William was reputed to have about \$100 in his pocket, a very large sum at that time. The voyage was adventurous, the ship foundered before reaching New York, and they had to be picked up by another vessel to reach their destination.

From New York the immigrants took a series of boats and barges along rivers and canals until they finally crossed Lake Ontario to land at Toronto.

Mud, ankle deep in the streets, greeted them on the way to a hotel, a far cry from the older civilized cities and towns of their native land. Upon arriving they began inquiries about William's older brother, Edward, who had preceded them. They finally found brother Edward and another cousin in Toronto.

They decided to establish themselves in Toronto and rented a house at King and Ontario Sts. Having had some experience at woodworking, it was first determined that they would make wagon wheels, but then quickly switched to furniture. Most furniture had to be imported up to that time, and a ready supply of wood, along with a demand for good workmanship put them into a profitable business in a hurry.

Sundays gave them the opportunity to explore the surrounding countryside and this took them to the Humber Valley, then the industrial centre of the region. Three miles up river from Lake Ontario the settlement of Milton Mills stood on the river bank. It was here that William Tyrrell met William Gamble, a miller and merchant.

NEW MILL

Gamble must have been impressed with the young Irish immigrant because he asked him to propose a new mill. Tyrrell had never built a small house let alone a mill, but with perseverance he prepared a plan and estimate based on his knowledge of mills on the Ponsonby estate in Ireland. Tyrrell was only 21 and in Canada only a year, but Gamble accepted, and Tyrrell was launched on his lifelong career.

The year 1837, in addition to Tyrrell's first venture in building, was a year of rebellion, and he along with the men working on the new mill and Gamble defended Toronto. They really didn't see any action but progress on the

building was delayed. Even with the interruption, the roof was completed on the wooden structure by the fall of that year.

While the construction was under way he continued to live at King and Ontario, walking the five miles each day to and from the site on the Humber. In the spring of 1838 with the mill for Gamble completed, Tyrrell went on to build him a home. Milton, located close to where Bloor St. crosses the Humber today, with a general store and a few other buildings, continued as a thriving community.

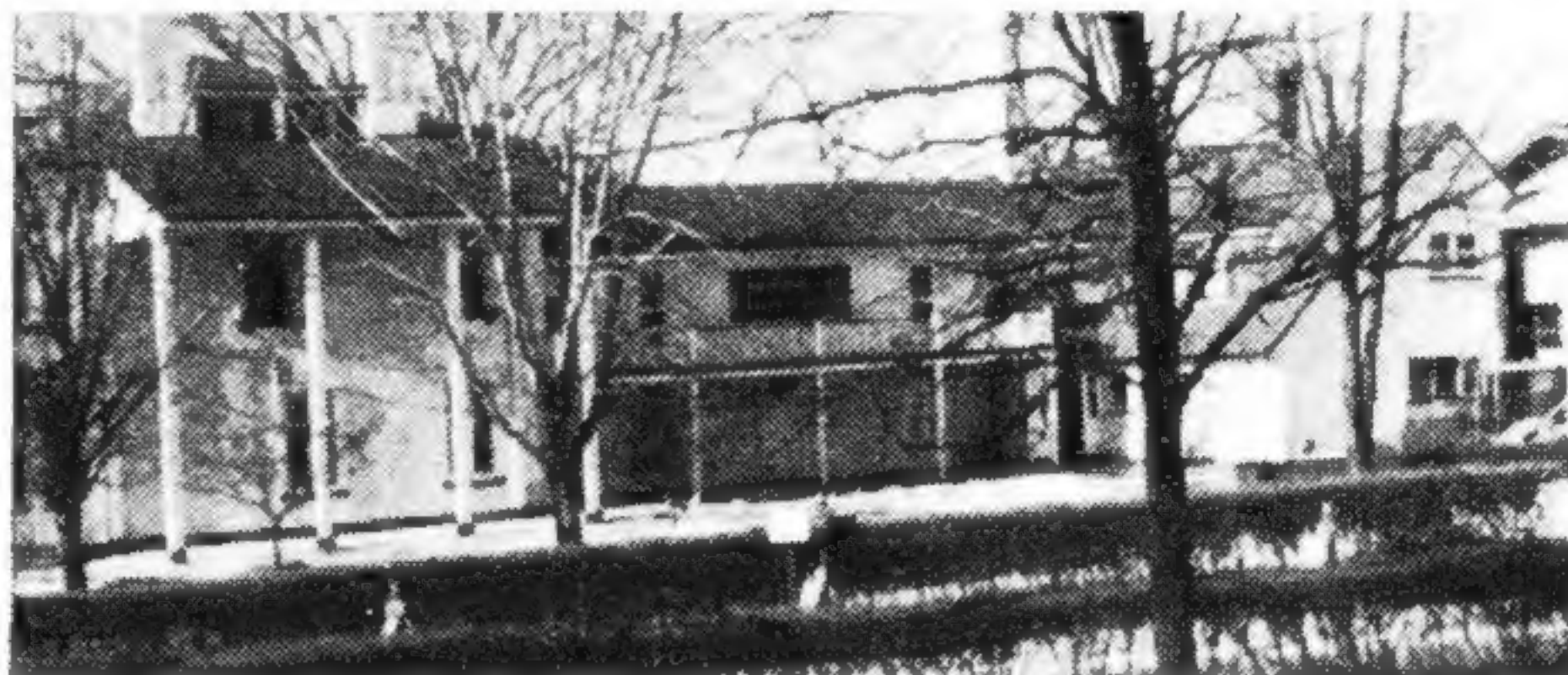
FORGOT INVESTING

John Gamble, William's brother, also impressed with the young builder, engaged him to add to the mill at Pinegrove, also on the Humber just above Woodbridge. In two years as a contractor, Tyrrell was stated to be "comfortable". The young Irishman forgot about surveying investments for Lord Ponsonby and began a life of his own in the country of his adoption.

Courtesy of Jim Gunn / The Etobicoke Guardian.



Driving a cutter over Wadsworth's (St. Philip's) Bridge after the turn of the century.



This imposing mansion, known as Pine Hill, the Wadsworth family home, later became the Weston Golf Club's headquarters.

Elsie MacPherson Remembers ...

Charles Gillis - Teamster

With all the modern equipment we have today, it doesn't seem possible, that one man and a team of horses could have accomplished the work load that he undertook every day of his life. The solid deep cellars of our houses and buildings are a monument to Charles Gillis, Teamster. His barns were on Holley Ave. in the vicinity of the Jehovah's Witness Church, and he lived in the old Burk's Hotel, on the corner of Main St. and St. Philip's Rd.

CHARLES GILLIS TEAMSTER

Thinking of Charlie, and remembering his peculiar bowed gait, I would say he must always have been around horses. Old

Charlie, with his faithful team, was a familiar figure, in our town. Ploughing gardens, digging new cellars, moving houses on rollers, dragging stones from the river in the summer, cutting ice blocks in winter, these were the tasks carried out by this tough muscular man, as he ho'ed and haw'd in a booming voice to his thick-legged workmates. But in spite of his rough ways and rough work, I never heard him curse.

There was a firm sureness in the gnarled hands that guided and held the reins, and oh what a thrill it was in winter, to hitch a ride on his big sleigh. Slowing down, he would wait while we clambered aboard. With snowy ice particles clinging to his grey hair and moustache, I sometimes fancied he was the real Santa Claus. His weather-beaten face would be red with cold, blue eyes twinkling beneath the visor of his leather ear-lugged cap.

He always wore a hat. In summer a wide straw, in the fall a battered felt, and on Sunday to go with the dark suit, and polished shoes, a shiny black bowler. He certainly looked different, strolling down the street, on his way to

In 1890, Ten Cents A Day To Commute To Toronto

From the Weston Times,
Sept. 12, 1890 issue.

New Map

Messrs. Jackson and James, corner Bay and Richmond streets, Toronto, have issued a new map of Weston.

It sets forth with Toronto being the most flourishing city in Canada; population over 200,000; assessment in 1890—\$137,230,778.

The beautiful suburb, Weston an incorporated village, population of about 1,500, only three miles from the limits of the city of Toronto, is beautifully situated on the banks of the River Humber, which supplies excellent water power for factories and electric lighting.

It has the Canadian Pacific, the Grand Trunk Main Line and Suburban Trains to and from the city. The passenger and suburban trains now make 20 trips per day between Weston and Toronto and promise is given of more suburban trains to the city when required.

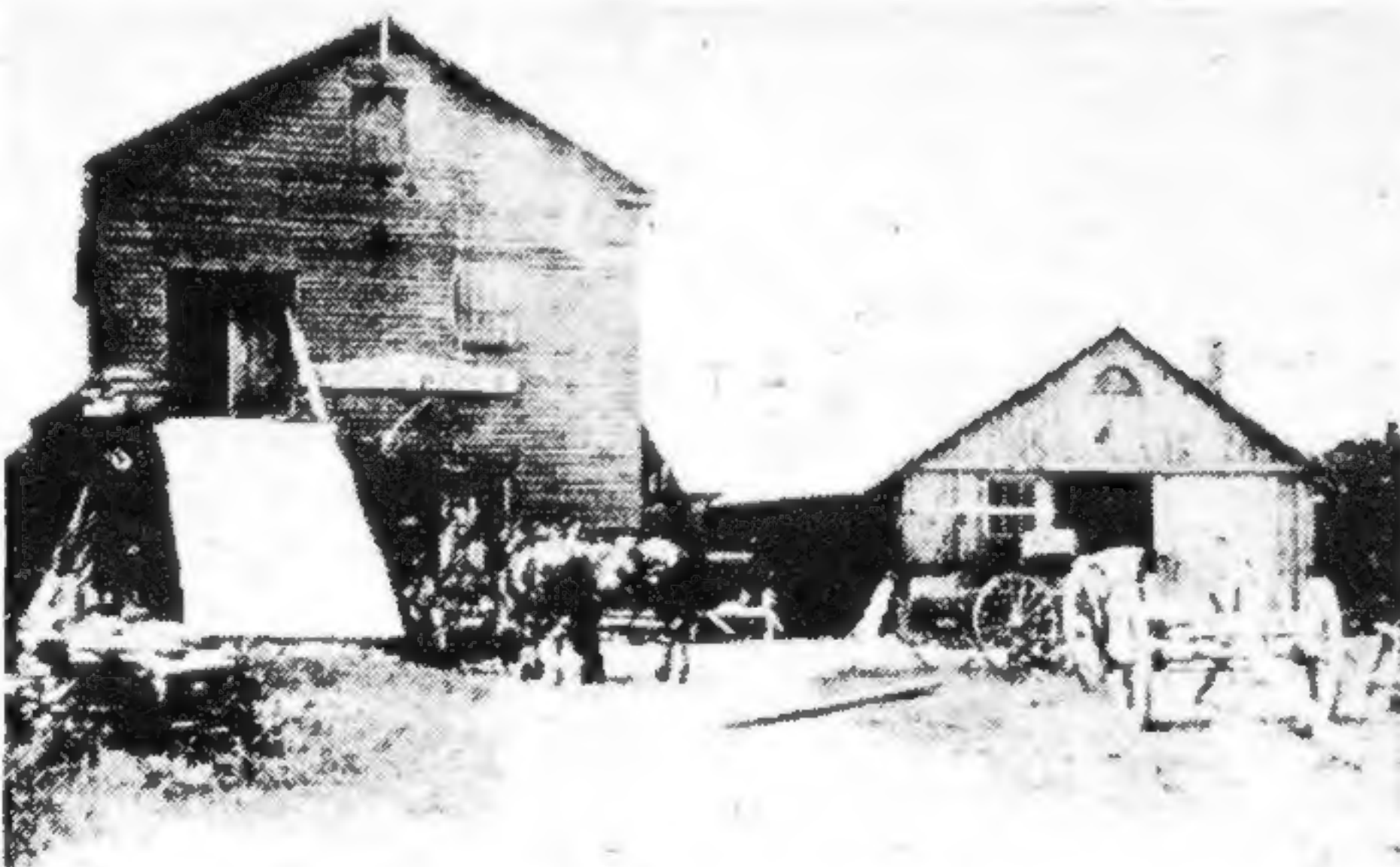
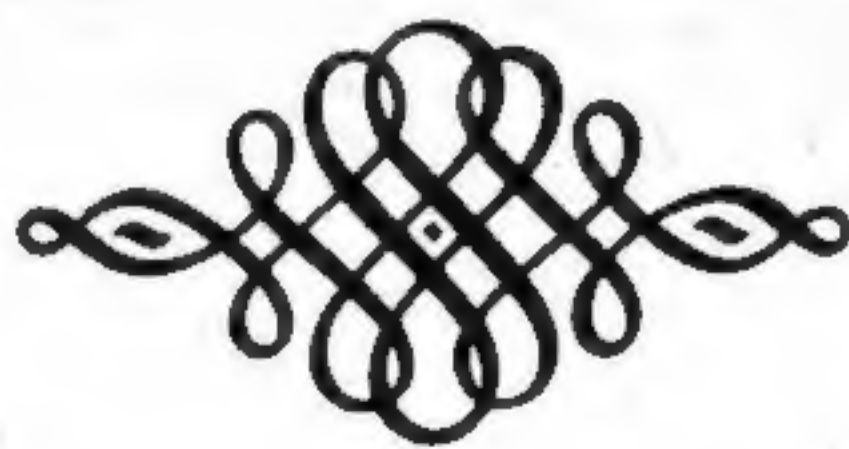
Monthly tickets can be obtained, allowing five round trips from Weston to Union station for ten cents per day. This is cheaper than city street car fares in proportion to distance.

The village is prettily laid out and is fast developing, giving promise of a brilliant future. Persons living here have the advantages of cheap property, large lots, low taxes, healthy location etc. etc.

Weston has also, and will likely have more, splendid local educational advantages and with the excellent train service, students can reach Toronto University and other colleges in a few minutes.

church choir, grey hair and moustache neatly trimmed, and a big cigar to complete the picture. On Sunday when he stopped at our house to talk to my Father in the garden, first names didn't seem quite proper, and I would say, "Good morning, Mr. Gillis."

Over the years, his solid, reliable, ageless face never changed, even to the days, when I married and had children of my own. Sundays and weekdays, Charles Gillis, teamster, was a Christian gentleman.



Cruikshank's, "the business the buggy built", operated out of these headquarters on Weston Road for many years.



Before refrigeration, Weston depended on ice harvested from the Humber River to keep food fresh.

100
YEARS
of neighbours helping
neighbours
SUPPORT THE WESTON BLOCK PARENTS
CENTENNIAL GOAL
LET'S MAKE IT 200
for further information call 653-2270.

Westminster United Church

In the beginning this congregation held their meetings in at least two private homes previous to 1847. However, in the autumn of 1858 the congregation was organized and was named Weston Free Church.

One can imagine the struggle trying to form a new congregation. There are several years where no records of the congregation can be found, but in 1865 the first church building was built on the present site of Weston Presbyterian Church on Cross St. The busy and active life of the church began.

Our church was first lighted by electricity in 1902 but returned to gas lighting the same year. However, we have had electricity since April of 1909.

A choir was formed and Sunday School was operating in 1873; a Young People's group in 1892. As the Sunday School grew, it was decided in 1910 to purchase land on the corner of Main and Mill St. (now Bellevue Cres.) and erect a Sunday School building.

In 1911 it was decided the church should have a new name — Westminster Presbyterian Church. United services in the summer months began with the Methodist congregation in 1910.

On March 27th, 1913 the Cross St. church was closed and all services were held in the Sunday School building. A new pipe organ was installed in 1923 and there began a wonderful history of music.

In 1925 Westminster Presbyterian became a congregation of the United Church of Canada and henceforth has been known as Westminster United.

In 1930 Westminster and Central congregations began union services during July and August, and later Weston Presbyterian joined with us. This has been a happy relationship.

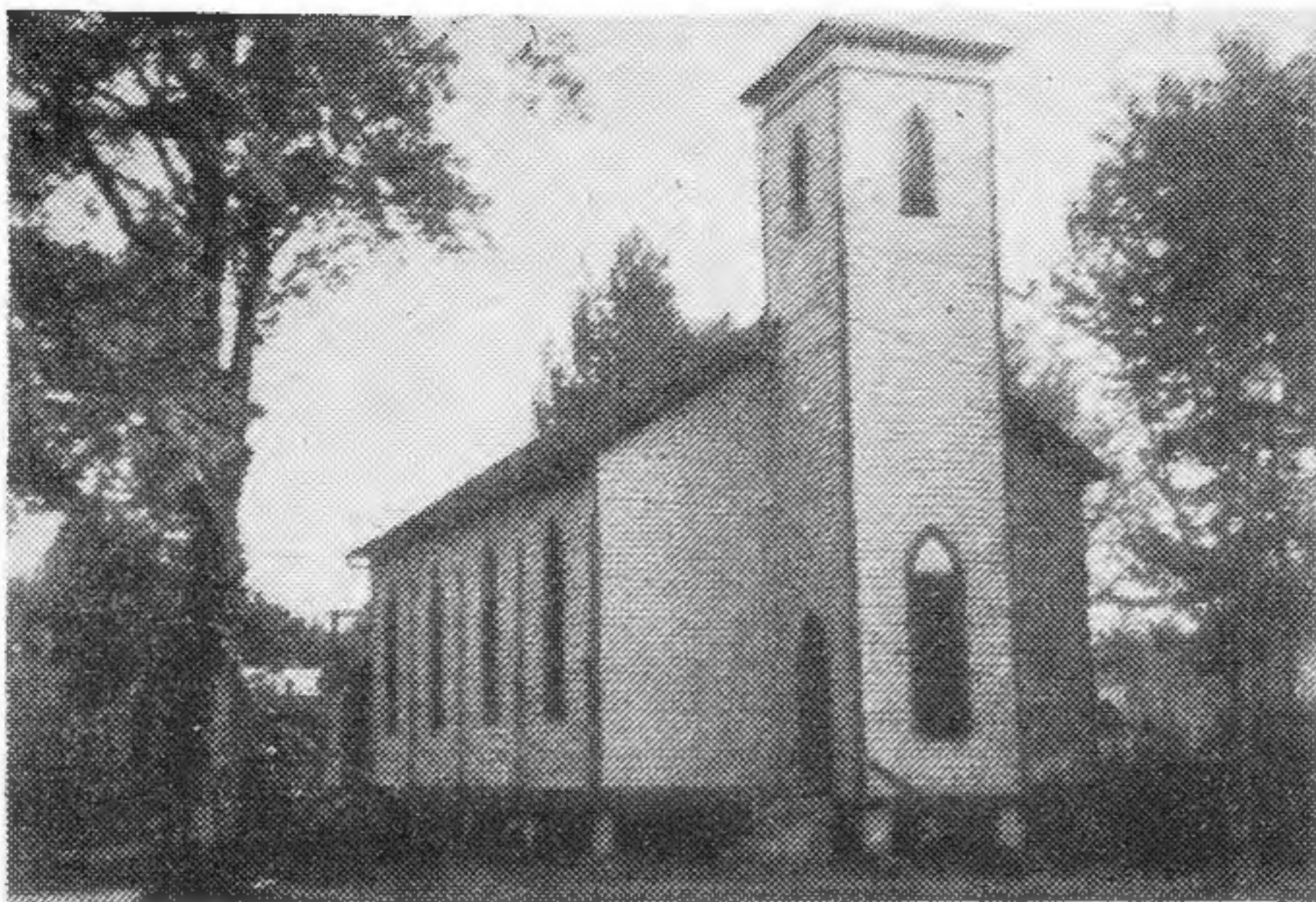
For those who can look back to the Sunday School building on Main St., there are many memories. In the beginning there was a swimming pool under the auditorium. This was used by the Y.M.C.A. However, this proved too expensive and it was decided to cover over the pool, making a lovely Primary Department for our Sunday School. It was also used for meetings, children's events, concerts, Explorers, Cubs and Scouts and many other events. Do YOU remember?

As this building had always been thought of as Sunday School, the plans for the "New Church" were always in the background. Eventually the site was chosen — 69 William St. A fund was started and plans were made. It was also decided we should have a manse, and it was at this time a lovely home was bought on Queen's Dr.

The new church's cornerstone was laid on June 18th, 1952 and during the next few months great interest was shown in the progress. Finally, the big day arrived and the dedication service was held on February 22nd, 1953. It was a cold and blustery day for our Cubs and Scouts, with bare knees, to lead the parade of Sunday School children from the old building to our lovely new edifice.

Westminster has had a fine history of Ministers, each with a special memory. We have had great members down through the years — trustees, session, stewards, church secretaries, organists and choir leaders, choirs, men's clubs, Women's Missionary Society, United Church Women, Canadian Girls in Training, Explorers, Messengers, Cubs, Scouts, Tyros (all with their dedicated leaders), Sunday School teachers and children, young peoples. There

Continued on Page 14.



People from as far away as Pinegrove, Kleinburg and Clairville as well as Weston attended St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church which was constructed in 1854.

St. John the Evangelist Church

By Ruth Rollings

St. John the Evangelist Parish was established in 1853 by Mgr. de Charbonnel, catholic Bishop of Toronto. The Basilian Fathers, who came from France in 1852, and resided at St. Michael's Cathedral, accepted the responsibility of servicing the parish.

In the year 1852, Patrick Chapman and Patrick D'Arcy of Weston were appointed by Bishop de Charbonnel to collect funds for a parish church. Before the close of that year, Patrick D'Arcy bought the land for the building, which was one third of an acre formerly purchased by John Lawrence from Woodberry Card.

The said lot was "fronting on a cross street nearly parallel with the plank road and extending from John D'Porters' to James Cousins' land; it has a frontage of one chain on said cross street, by three chains fifty three links more or less, nearly back to the Guelph Railroad."

This site was approved by Bishop de Charbonnel and on Jan. 29, 1853 Mr. D'Arcy signed the deed which transferred the ownership of the church site from his name to that of the Episcopal Corporation of the Diocese of Toronto.

Due to many obstacles no immediate steps were taken to build the church. Consequently Mass was said only once a month in Weston, the first Mass being said in the home of Patrick Chapman.

On Friday, Apr. 14, 1854, a notice was inserted in the Toronto Mirror calling a meeting for "the second Sunday after Easter the 30th instant," the results of that meeting appeared in the May 5, 1854 edition which read, "we are gratified to find the Catholic inhabitants of Weston and its vicinity have taken effective steps to secure the speedy erection of the projected Catholic Church at that place."

On Sunday, Sept. 17, 1854 the Solemn Benediction and Inauguration of St. John the Evangelist Church, the First Catholic Church in Weston, took place.

In an old account book used during Archbishop Lynch's administration one reads under "City Parishes' Weston" Patron: St. John the Evangelist, Church: Frame, Dimensions: 60 x 40, Estimated cost: \$2,000.00. Debt: None, Separate School: One, Pastor's Name under whom the church was built: Father Soulerin.

The congregation consisted of people from the villages of Burwick, Pinegrove, Kleinburg, Clairville, as well as families within a mile of the village of Weston.

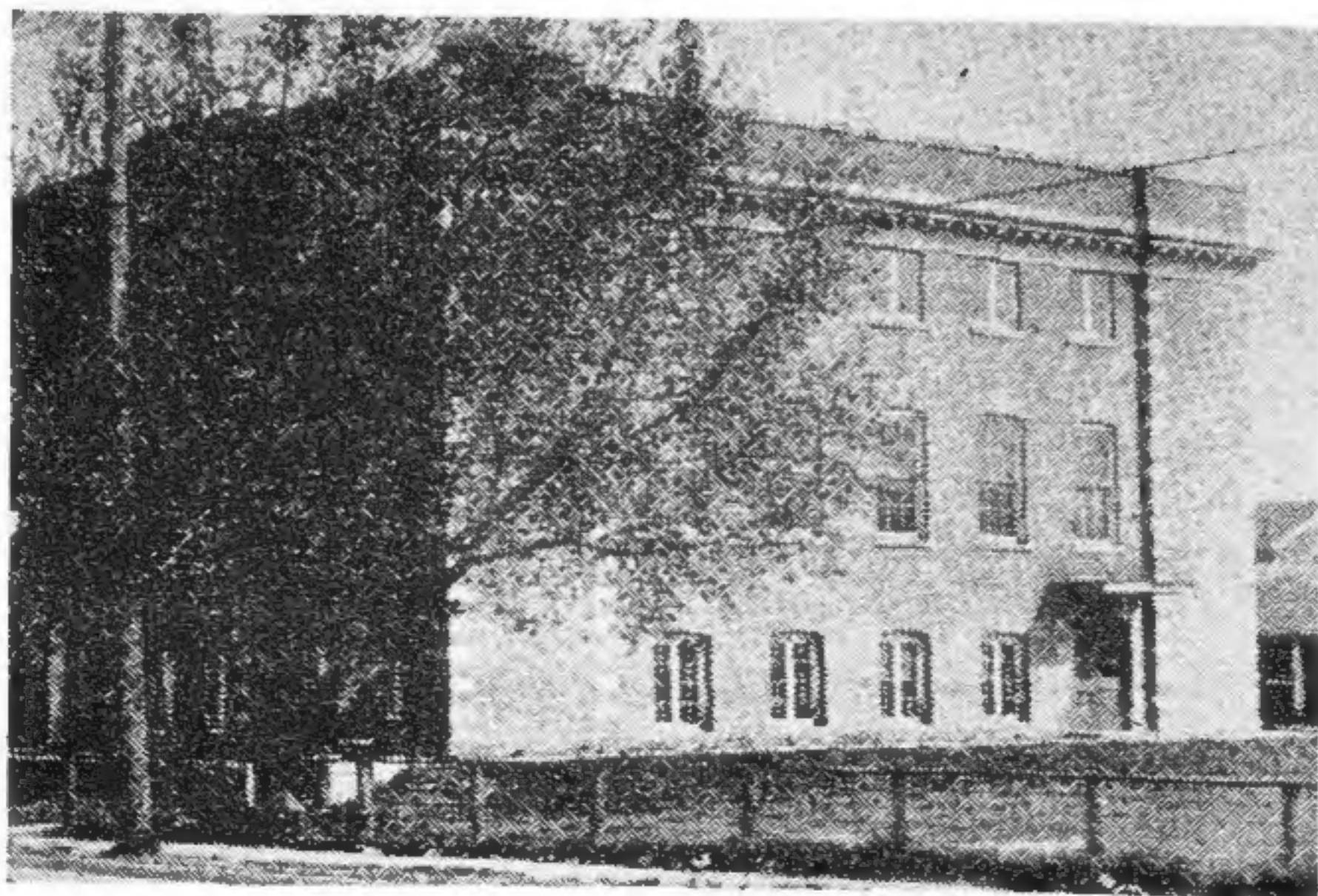
St. John's separate school was organized in 1856 and the sacristy of the church served as a school house until 1892, when a single room building was erected. In 1921 an addition was built giving the school four rooms. The top two rooms served as a parish hall in the evenings and over the weekends.

1966 saw the erection of the present day school. During the years children have been taught by the sisters of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the Faithful Companions of Jesus, the latter presently at the school.

The parish and school was attended by the Basilian Fathers until 1875, by priests from St. Helen's Church, Bockton until 1895; from St. Cecilia's West Toronto until 1908 and the Basilian Fathers until 1913. In that year St. John's was given its first resident pastor, Rev. Charles Richardson.

The old frame building served the purpose of worship of the Weston Catholic community till 1953 (99 years) when on June 21 at that year, Cardinal James McGuigan attended the centenary celebration of the parish and turned the sod for a new church.

Continued on Page 14.



The original structure of Westminster United Church was located at the corner of what is now Bellvue Ave. and Weston Rd. This building was used as a Sunday School.

A Milling Town Attracts

Unlike some early Ontario towns, founded by specific religious communities, Weston was developed as a milling town, thus, inviting many religious groups who were interested in the promising industry. A small population scattered throughout a large area created a problem providing clergymen for all the various sects.

Originally religious services were held in barns, houses, taverns, and various public places. Around the time of the early 1850's, original Weston Presby-

terians, who appear to be of the Free Church, held their first services in the home of Captain John Pirrite, the local teacher. Later, in 1907, the Baptist congregation first met in a tent on the property of the blacksmith of the town.

The Catholics started holding mass in the hotel of the community. Since the 1830's the Anglicans in the Weston area have had a church building. They were originally part of the Etobicoke congregation of St. Philips.



The first Baptist congregation in Weston met in a tent, erected on their present site, in 1907. There were 45 people in attendance and the collection amounted to \$2.56.

Weston Baptist Church

by Arlene Huff

A Baptist Church was organized in Weston in 1893.

"In the spring of the present year (1893) the brethren at Highfield (now known as Rexdale) having applied to the Home Mission Board for the services of a student for the summer, it was deemed advisable... to open services at Weston and therefore ascertain what prospects existed for the inauguration of a permanent Baptist interest... The meeting of organization was held on Thursday evening, September 14, 1893, in the Oddfellows Hall, Church St. Weston, there being about 25 present."

All records of this church in Weston abruptly end in May, 1894. The year is now 1907. A young minister, Rev. John McIntosh, accounts of the first meeting.

"A Baptist cause, after an extinction of several years, was begun here on Sunday, July 28, at 3 p.m. The service was held in the Home Mission tent. There were 45 present and the offering amounted to \$2.56. Bro. Curlett kindly brought the organ from Memorial Church, Toronto. Bro. Curlett also gave us free use of his lot for the tent" (Located on the west side of Main St. South)

Among the residents of the village first attracted to the tent meetings were Mr. & Mrs. George Pollard - whose house was next door. He was the local blacksmith. When Rev. McIntosh started unloading the tent and chairs on the lot next door Mr. Pollard offered to help. A couple of weeks later a storm blew the tent down and it was taken in the Pollard home for repair and that is how the Pollards became interested in Weston Baptist Church.

At a meeting on Sept. 26, 1907 at the home of Mrs. Dixon, North Station Street (now 153 Rosemount Ave.) it was decided to organize under the name of "Alexander Memorial Baptist Church" in memory of Rev. John Alexander, late pastor of Dovercourt Baptist Church. (Although the name fell

into disuse it was the official name of our church until changed to "Weston Baptist Church" at the annual meeting Jan. 23, 1945.)

At the meeting in 1907, 21 character members were recorded. Bro. J.L. Sloat was called to be pastor at the remuneration of \$8.00 per week.

In August 1908 the property on which our church now stands was purchased.

First sod was turned Aug. 1, 1908 by Mrs. Dixon, a charter member of the original church in 1898.

June 1909 the pastor's salary was raised to \$14. per week.

Pastor Sloat resigned in 1911. Rev. Harriss Wallace was pastor until 1914. Brother E.D. Renaud was pastor 1914-15. There were now 56 members.

In April 1919, Mr. H.E. Wintemute became pastor at a salary of \$800.00 per year. In 1922 Mr. Wintemute went to Bolivia as a missionary.

Pastors from 1922-1936 were Mr. A.S. McGrath, Mr. G.A. Brown, Rev. J.C. Williamson.

In 1937 Mr. Norman Dabbs a McMaster student was called. He later married Lorna Gastrell and they went to Bolivia as missionaries. Norman Dabbs and seven others were stoned to death by natives on Aug. 8, 1949.

Rev. Albert Eikenaar became pastor in 1939. Interest in missions became prevalent.

In 1942 Weston Baptist Church began a home mission project on the outskirts of Thistletown (Elmlea).

By Jan. 19, 1944 total membership was 164, active members, 122. During this time a new Minchell Electric organ was presented to the church by Mrs. George Swan on behalf of the choir.

On July 13, 1947 Deacon George Pollard (the only surviving charter member) turned the first sod for the long awaited new building.

Continued on Page 13.

Many Faiths

All the religious groups in Weston were eager to be recognized. All began by being only small segments of a congregation which covered an area of hundreds of miles. Hence they saw their preachers much less frequently than desired. If a congregation were lucky enough to have such a wealthy parishoner as William Wadsworth (an Anglican) or William Tyrrell (a Presbyterian) who were eager to finance a church building or donate a plot of land, there was little to worry about. However, many churches had to

rely on the enthusiasm inspired by the rectors to encourage generous donations.

Gradually, by the early 1900's, all the churches in Weston, The Church of England, the Wesleyan and Episcopal Methodists, Roman Catholics, Baptists, and Presbyterians, were recognized as independent parishes and were given their own ministers to practice the faith.



St. John's Anglican Church

By Elsie MacPherson

St. John's is a beautiful little church, of fine design situated on Weston Rd. south of Church St. in Weston. Once surrounded by stately family homes, it is now hemmed in by concrete plazas and apartments.

But the work of the church, in the community, has been carried out, in a most impressive way, since early settlement days, and in Weston's Centennial year, St. John's celebrates its 125th anniversary.

Accounts of the colourful history of the area show that in 1615, Etienne Brule, traversed both the Indian Trail, (Weston Rd.) and the Humber River after leaving Champlain, at Couchiching. Both important routes were used in the years that followed, by Indians, and French troops, on their way to the Fort which had been built at the mouth of the Humber.

Rich timberland attracted settlers to the Weston area, mills were built, industry flourished, and the Anglican Church established, with St. Philip's on the hill, on the east side of the Humber. There were disastrous floods every spring, settlers began rebuilding on the west side, and the incumbent of St. Philip's, seeing the need for services to be held on the west side, purchased four acres from the Holley family, and built a rectory and St. John's Chapel on, what is now Rectory Rd.

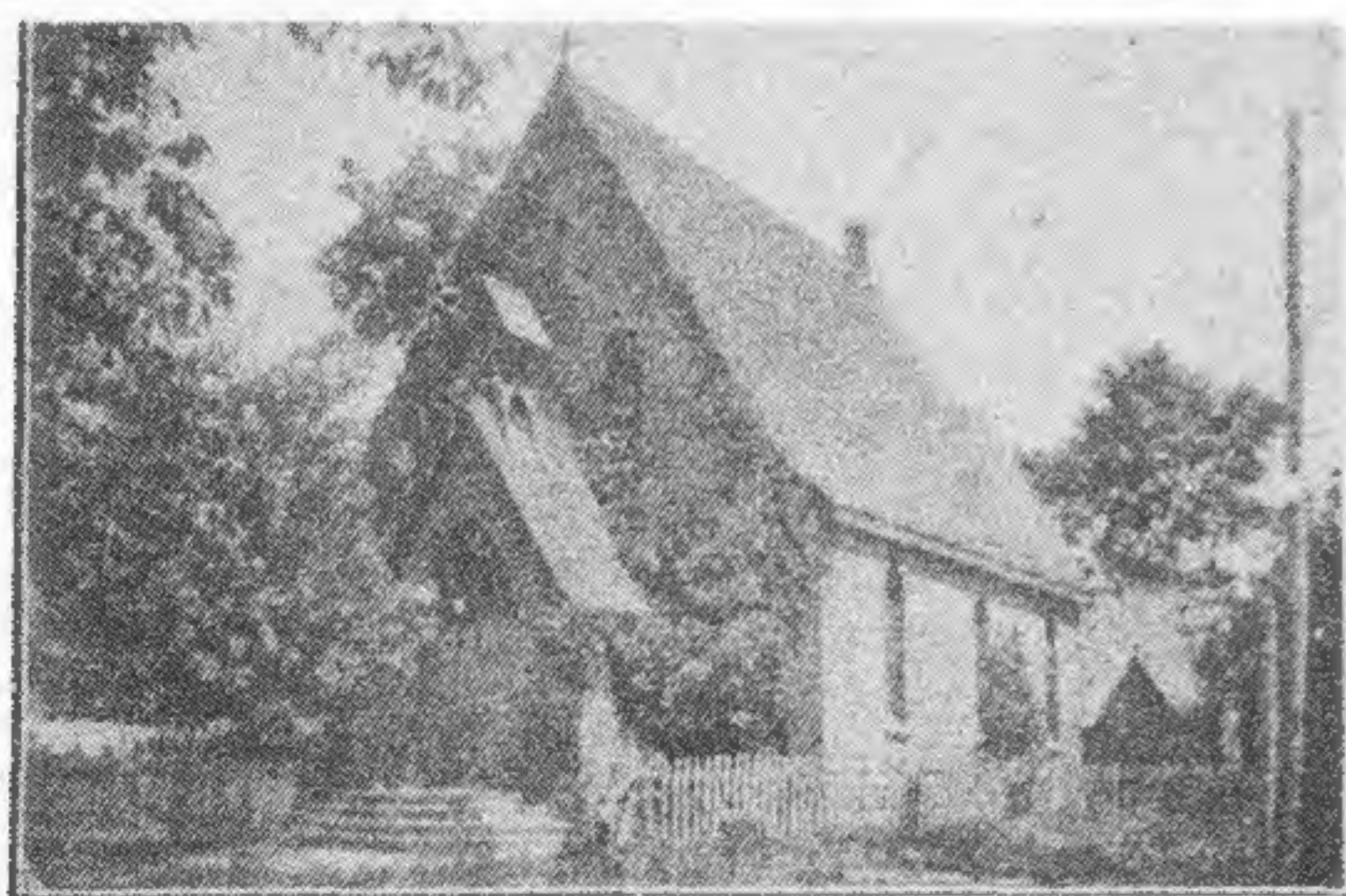
The year was 1856, and it was the beginning of the ministry of the Rev. William Arthur Johnson, a highly-skilled artist, architect, and doctor. He served the community well, and established a school for boys. The school became Trinity College, now at Port Hope, it's most famous pupil, Sir William Osler.

The Rev. Johnson died during a flu epidemic, and in 1894, St. John's was moved to its present location, the original design of the chapel intact, and the oak pews hand-wrought by him, still in use.

Many improvements have been added, the driving shed became, a parish hall, electricity installed, new furnaces replaced stoves, and many beautiful, donated gifts, by parishioners, enhance this lovely place of worship.

We have been blessed with many community minded ministers. The Rev. J. Hughes-Jones, interested in politics and education, The Rev. W.E. Mackey who served so well during difficult depression times, the Rev. Keith Kiddell whose dynamic teaching ministry, filled the church to overflowing, capably followed by the Rev. H. Scuse, and the Rev. Howard Best.

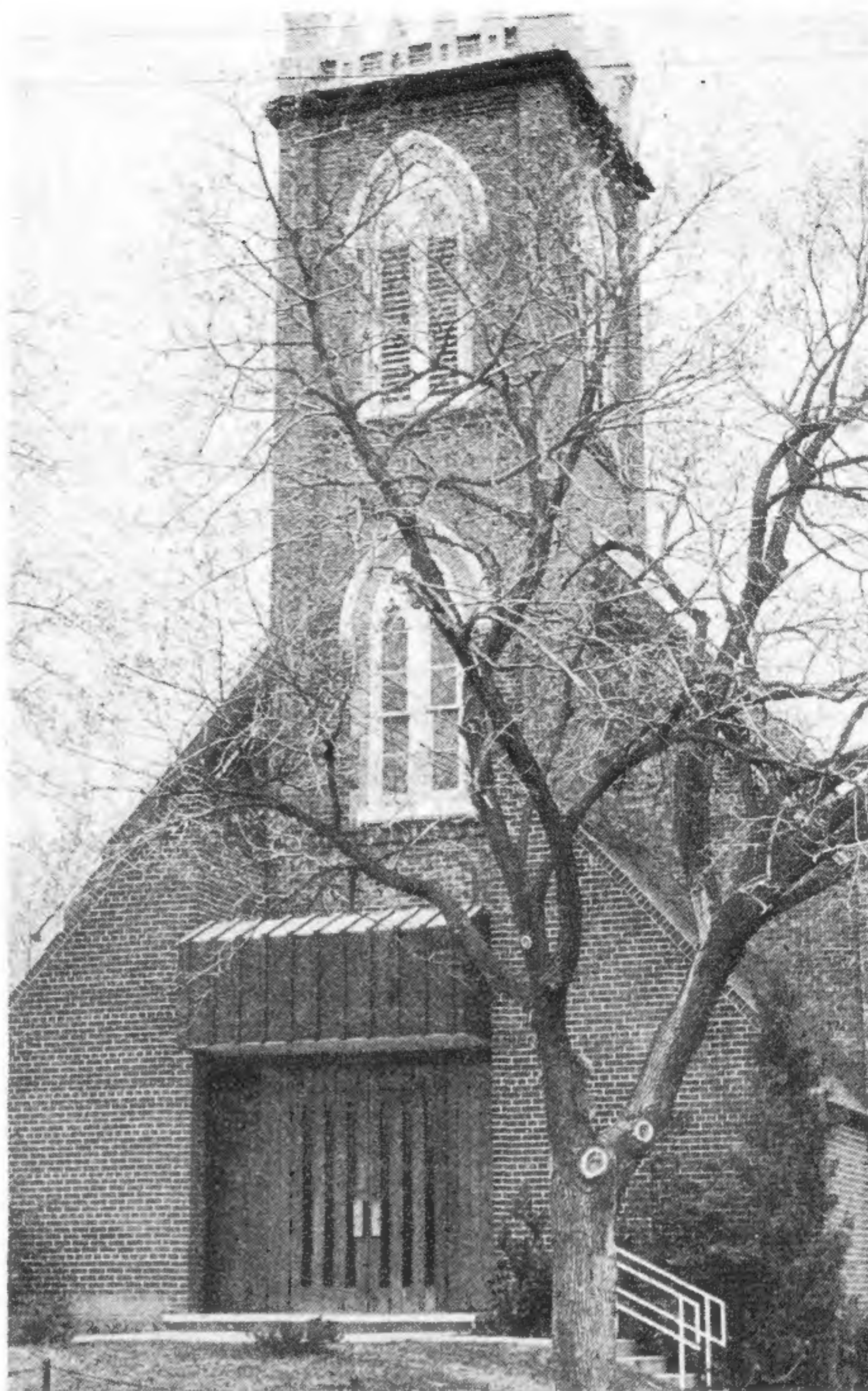
Since November 1980, Rev. John and Shirley Course arrived, we have been truly fortunate. St. John's Anglican Church is an important part of our town.



St. John's Anglican Church was physically moved from Rectory Road to its site on Weston Rd. in 1894. The oak pews were hand carved by the rector.



William Tyrrell built the first United Church in 1849 at the corner of King St. and Weston Rd. This Methodist church held 230 people.



The first Presbyterian Church in Weston was built in 1865 at a cost of \$600. This is the second oldest Presbyterian Church still in use in the Toronto area.

Central United Church

by Stan Musslewhite

In 1821 an acre of land, our present site, was deeded to the "Trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church" (U.S.A.) by Elizabeth Davis and John Davis Porter, and a log chapel erected.

Additional parcels of land were obtained over a period of years and in 1880 another lot was purchased on which the first Parsonage was erected. In the early 1830's a branch of the Wesleyan Methodist Church was established in Weston and built a small frame building on Church St., which later became the Oddfellows Hall. They later added a second storey and bricked over the complete structure.

In 1849 a small brick building was erected on Weston Rd. at King Street, and the corner stone carried the inscription "Wesleyan Chapel A.D. 1849". This seated about 220 people and was built by William Tyrrell who became the first Reeve of Weston upon its incorporation as a village in 1881. In 1875, following a fire which burned the Grammar School on King Street, classes were held in the basement of this chapel.

The two Methodist congregations amalgamated, presumably in 1884 when half a dozen different Methodist groups in Canada united to become "The Methodist Church in Canada". The Church St. building was sold to the Oddfellows in 1886 for \$445.50.

In 1887 the third building on the present site was erected and seated about 460. This is still the core of the present sanctuary but in 1938 a new entrance and lobby was added, and the chancel as it is today was added to the south end, along with additional Sunday School accommodation.

A "Burying Ground" was laid out east of the church in the 1850's and used until about the turn of the century. In 1919, after the necessary legislation had been passed by the Ontario Legislature

to permit such action, the remains of those buried in the cemetery were removed and re-interred in Riverside Cemetery.

Subsequently, tennis courts were laid out and were in active use until World War II. Later the site was used in its unimproved condition as a parking lot and in 1966 an agreement was made with the then neighbouring supermarket to combine the lot with theirs for joint use of both parties. At that time it was levelled, paved and lighted.

When the United Church of Canada came into being in 1925, the Weston Methodist Church entered the new body and adopted the name "Central United Church". Through the years, following the first circuit Rider to serve the original congregation, the Rev. David Culp, there was never a lapse in the ministry which included some well known historical preachers, one of whom, the Rev. Egerton Ryerson, became the founder of the Christian Guardian and the father of the Ontario Public School System.

Extensive additions, including a new King St. entrance, a chapel, Christian Education Hall, vestry, board room, a well equipped kitchen, etc. were constructed in 1957 and provide ample accommodation for the present congregation which has just celebrated its 160th Anniversary.

A recent agreement with the Borough of York provides for almost daily use by Senior Citizens groups, etc., and on Sunday-afternoons a Korean congregation uses the sanctuary for their services.



Weston Presbyterian Church

by Robert Hamilton

In 1981, as we mark the 134th anniversary of the founding of this church, we think back to the year 1847 when Weston was a hamlet by the Humber, and it was a long way to Toronto.

As we read the history of this church, we find that there was Presbyterian worship in Weston even before 1847. Robert MacDougall, a Justice of the Peace, and John Pirritte, the local teacher, were devout Presbyterians who had recently come out from Scotland.

They often walked to Toronto on Sunday mornings to hear the Rev. Joseph Harris, of First Presbyterian Church. Mr. Harris was from Belfast, and was the first Presbyterian minister in Toronto. Occasionally, he would walk back to Weston with the two staunch Presbyterians, and conduct an afternoon service in their homes.

On June 16, 1847, the Toronto Presbytery appointed Rev. Harris to preach at Weston, and make arrangements for future supply. Salary for the supply was guaranteed to be eighteen pounds, and this was also to cover travelling expenses. Eleven years later, in 1858, it was officially organized as a congregation.

The Rev. D. B. Pearce was called at a salary of one hundred pounds a year. Thus Weston Presbyterian Church had its earliest beginnings in the real pioneer days of the community.

One of the problems of the early church was the drinking customs of the times. The extent of the problem can be gauged by the fact that Weston at that time had three bar rooms, three licensed stores, one distillery, and one brewery. At the very first Session meeting, a member was suspended from the next Communion because of drunkenness and profanity.

After the departure of Mr. Pearce, the charge was vacant for about thirteen years. Dr. Willis, the principal of Knox College was the interim moderator and often preached himself. However, more often he sent his students to "try the wings of their eloquence in their first sermon".

It is said that almost every student at Knox College preached his first sermon at Weston. One of the pioneer members is reported to have said — "What we suffered at that time, no one can tell!"

Meetings and services between 1847 and 1858 were held in homes. When the congregation was organized in 1858, they met in the afternoon or evening in the Methodist Episcopal Church which is now the Oddfellows Hall on Church Street.

The first church on this site was built in 1865 at a cost of six hundred dollars. A gift of Mr. D. Sloan, it opened without any debt to the congregation. This building is still in use and contains the choir pews, organ, and other space between the present sanctuary and Creelman Hall. It is the second oldest Presbyterian Church building still in use in Toronto.

The present sanctuary was built in 1880 and dedicated in 1881. Mr. Wm. Tyrrell, the first reeve of Weston, and the builder of the old high school, was the architect and contractor. Its cost was \$3,000. The old building became the Sunday School hall.

The congregation continued to grow, and on May 31, 1901, inducted its fourth minister, the Rev. R. M. Hamilton, who entered on his work with great

Continued on Page 13.



The Weston Volunteer Fire Brigade, above, was photographed in 1948 in the old Town Hall. Members included: Back Row From Left To Right - G. Parker, M. Holley, L. Wells, G. Coulter, C. Coleman, Middle Row Left To Right - J. Coulter, D. Edie, H. Ackrow, J. Amos, L. Lepage, H. Coulter, J. Ronaldson, S. Smuck, B. Pollard, J. Holley; Front Row Seated Left To Right - H. Brookbanks, A. Sythes, Fire Chief E. McGinnis, G. Pollard, C. Grosskurth, W. J. Ward; Front Row Kneeling Left To Right - A. Lacey, C. Solomon, A. Barton.

THE TOWN WAS PROTECTED FOR ALMOST 50 YEARS

The Town Hall Bell Summoned The Volunteer Fire Brigade

by Norman Atkins

The Weston volunteer fire brigade was organized in 1912, and became official and operational on Jan. 1st, 1913, under the requirements of By-Law No. 425.

As time passed the Fire Brigade and the Town Council decided that the By-law be repealed and updated.

As a result, By-law No. 765, dated November 13th, 1933, was passed.

Some of the Requirements of By-law No. 765, are as follows —

The Municipal Council of the Town of Weston enacts as follows —

(1) That the Fire Brigade be known as the Weston Volunteer Fire Brigade.

(2) The Officers shall consist of — The Chief, appointed by By-law of the Council on the recommendation of the brigade, and to hold office during the pleasure of Council.

A Captain four Lieutenants and a Secretary-Treasurer, or a Secretary and a Treasurer, elected by the Fire Brigade at their first meeting in each year, which shall be held on the first Thursday in January of each year, or as soon as possible thereafter.

The brigade met the first Thursday of every month from 1913 to the end of 1966.

The Brigade shall consist of

not less than 20 and not more than 25 active members.

In the early years, the firefighters were called to duty by the sounding of the Bell located on the Old Town Hall, at Weston Rd. and Little Ave.

During the 1920's and 30's the Volunteers were called to fires and other emergencies by the Fire Alarm Whistle Signal system provided by the C.C.M. Co. on Lawrence Ave., and by a party line phone system of which all the firefighters were on one phone line. The C.C.M. Whistle was discontinued in the late 1950's the fire phones remained in service until the end of 1966.

During the war years (1939-1945) there had been some large fires in the Town, and it was becoming more difficult for the volunteers (mainly local business men) to leave their place of business, during the week days.

In early 1945, the volunteers recommended to the Town Council that a fire chief be hired (Full-Time). This was accepted by the council, and in Feb. 1945 the late E. McGinnis was appointed Fire Chief for the Town of Weston. The Chief operated out of the former Fire Hall built in 1911 on Little Ave., and later the present Fire Hall built in 1949.

Chief McGinnis had served with the volunteers for many years before the war.

The Chief operated the Weston Fire Dept. with himself and 24 volunteers from 1945 until 1954, when it became necessary to hire three full-time firefighters allowing the fire hall to be manned at all times.

The full-time firefighters responded as volunteers during their off-duty time.

The full-time staff was added to over the years and by the end of 1966 Weston had employed seventeen full-time fire fighters consisting of the Fire Chief, Deputy Chief, three Captains and twelve firefighters.

It is to be noted - that Chief McGinnis was the only full-time Fire Chief to be employed by the Town of Weston. In 1967 when Weston became part of the Borough of York, Chief McGinnis and Deputy Chief G. Parker, were made District Chiefs but remained in the Weston Road Fire Station.

Chief McGinnis passed away in the early 1970's, and Deputy Chief G. Parker is enjoying his retirement.

Mechanics' Institute

In Canada Mechanics' Institutes were organized long before Confederation, the first one in Newfoundland in 1827. Modelled on those in Great Britain, they were intended to provide education for working men by means of study classes, lectures and a library.

They were financed by membership fees and augmented by government grants. As educational facilities developed, the classes provided by the Mechanics' Institutes were no longer needed and funds were used to improve the libraries.

Ontario legislation passed in 1895, provided that the Institutes become public libraries. Throughout Canada the Mechanics' Institutes were either re-incorporated as public libraries or closed. In Weston, the Mechanics' Institute was housed in two rooms in the old Town Hall.

In their day these Institutes contributed much to the intellectual and cultural life of Canada.

Weston Silver Band Celebrates 60 Years

The Weston Silver Band was founded in 1920 by George Sainsbury as the Weston Boys' Band and was modelled after the famous contesting brass bands he had known in his boyhood in England.

With his wife providing individual instruction and his four sons forming the nucleus of the group, he soon had a viable musical combination which was to become a familiar facet of life in Weston.

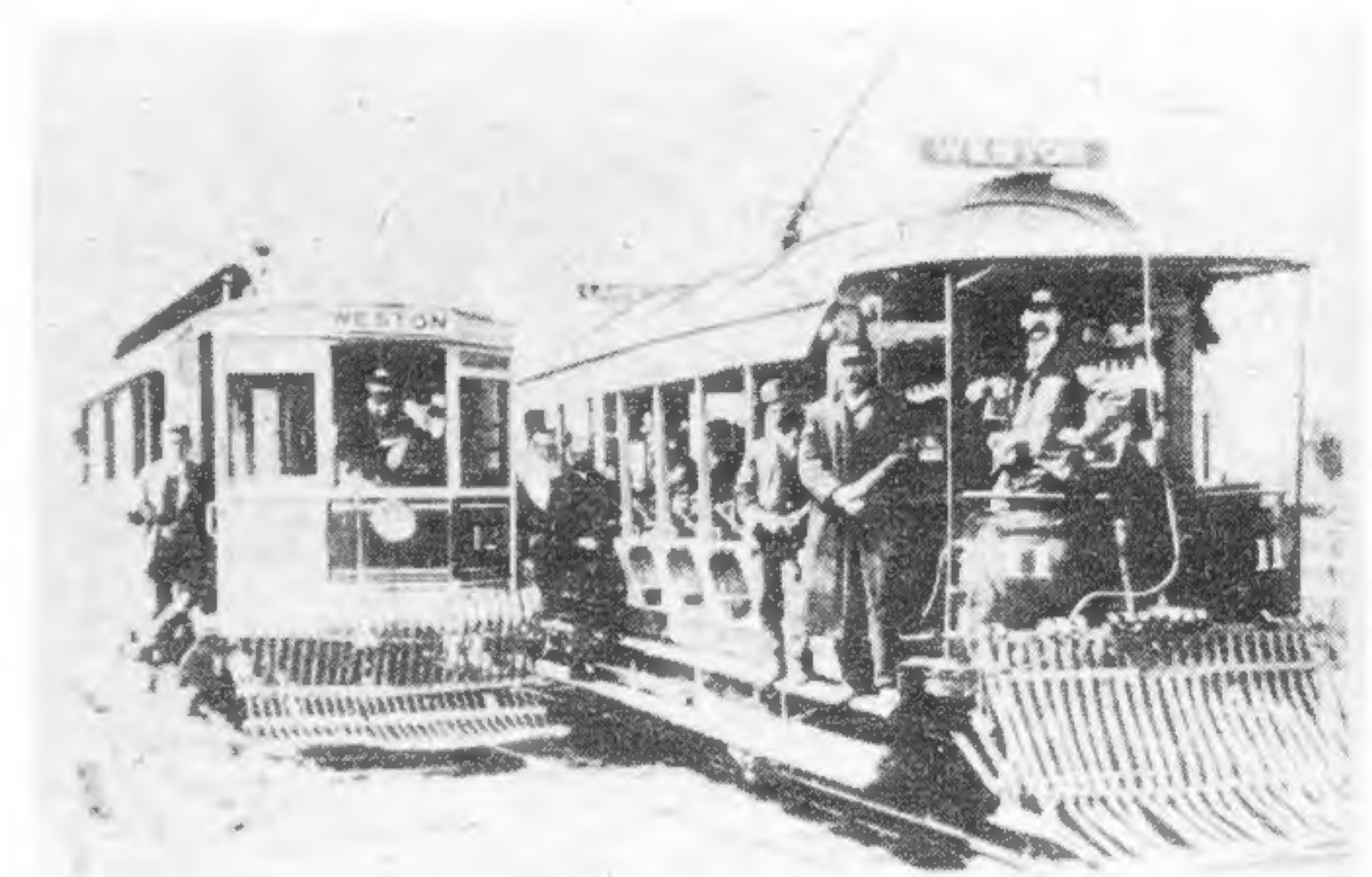
Both the Band and the boys grew, and within a few years it was necessary to rename the group

The Weston Silver Band. The Band's founder served two terms as conductor and was separated from his beloved band only by his passing at the age of 76.

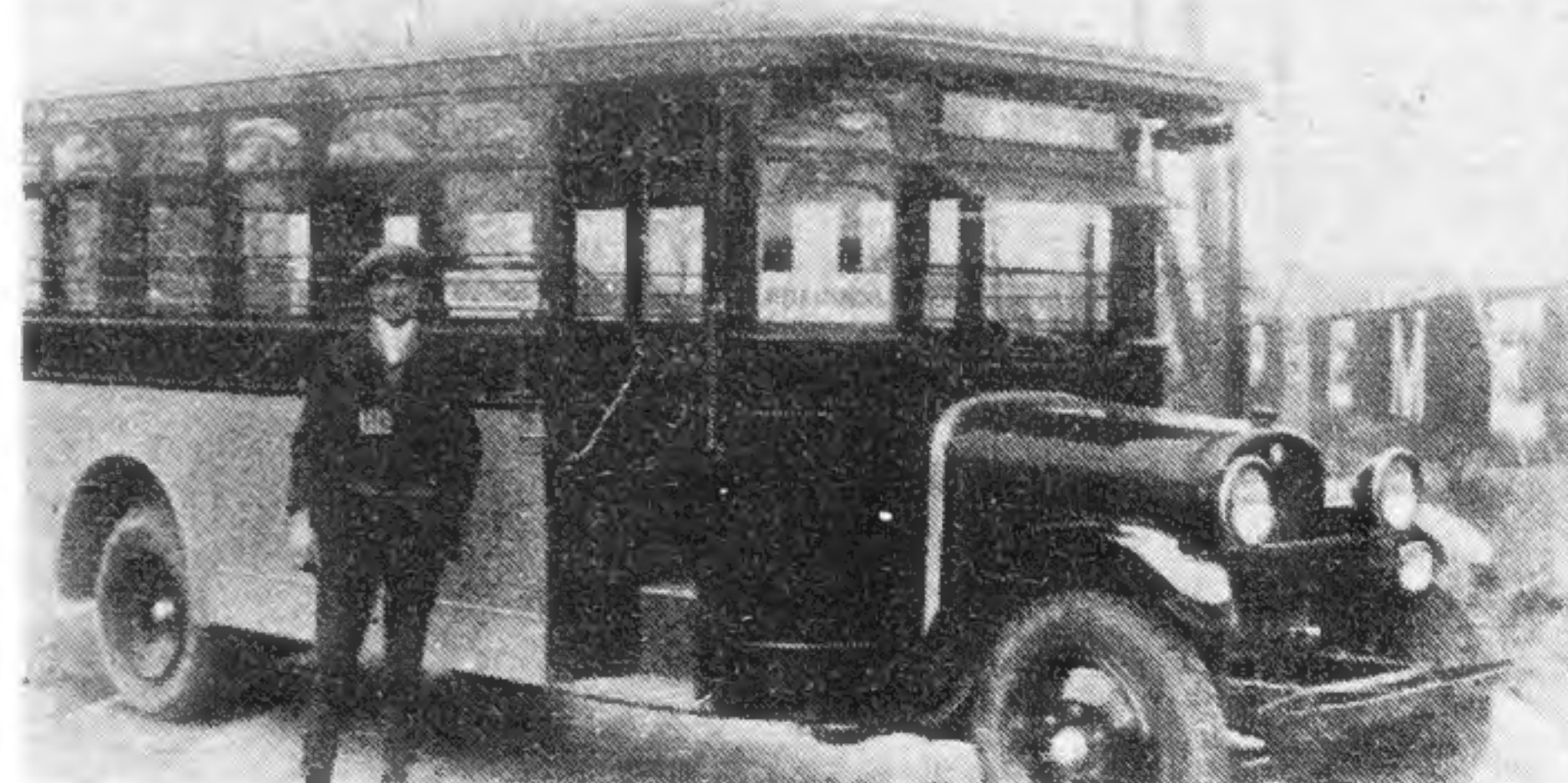
Douglas Field, the band's conductor since April 1978, has lead the band to three consecutive first place honours at the Toronto Kiwanis Music Festival. In celebration of their 60th anniversary and of the proud history of Weston, the band has produced an L.P. recording entitled Weston Road.



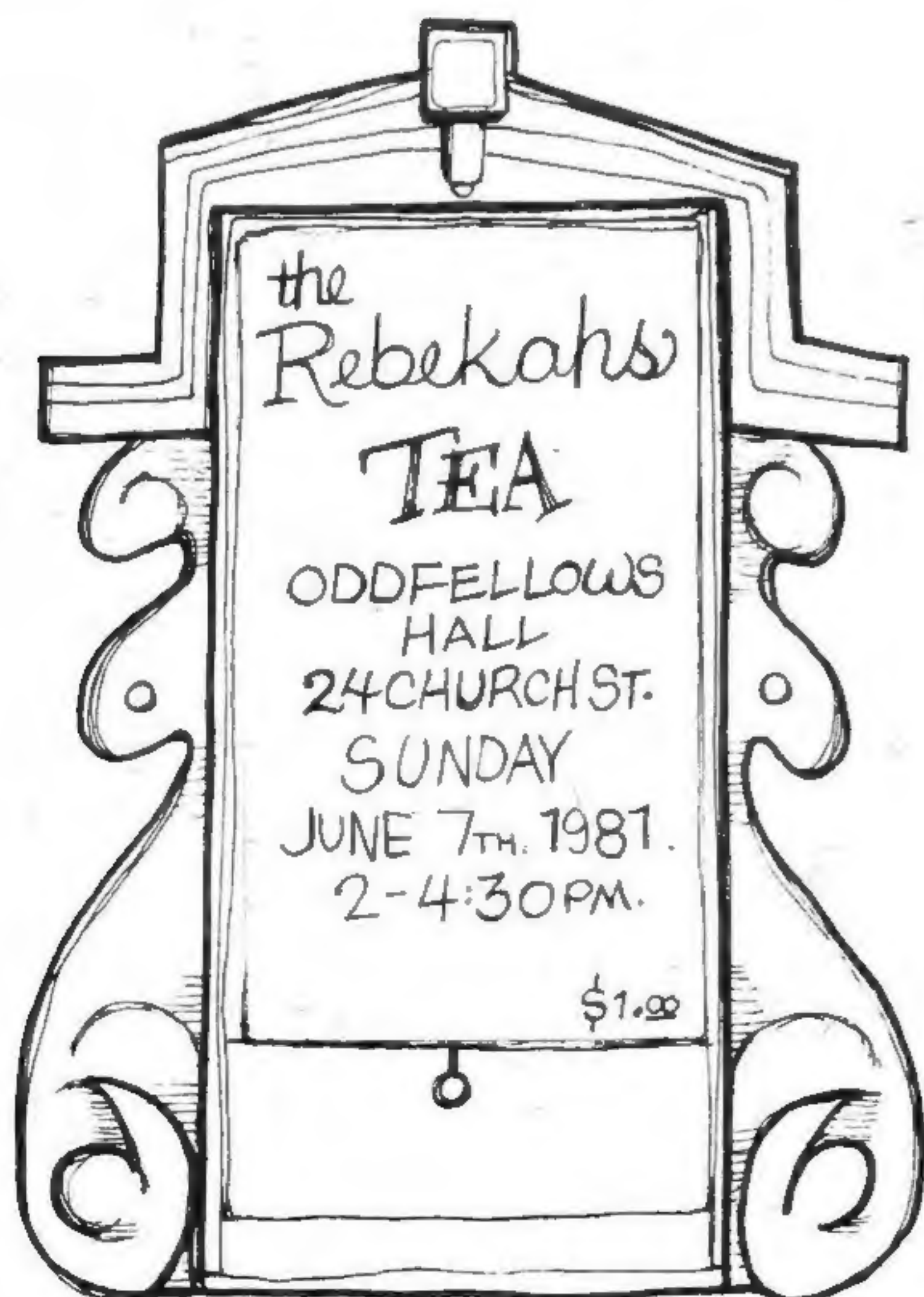
Music played an important part in town life. The town band, pictured above, in 1919, had just finished playing for an event in the Fair Grounds. The Weston Silver Band was formed a year later, as a boys' band.



At the turn of the century, if you wanted to go to the Junction (Keele and Dundas), these open air street cars would take you there. Later, buses, such as this one shown below, could supplement the service.



Central Hotel, where Shoppers' Drug Mart is now located at Ellesmere and Weston Rd., was still standing in the 1940's as seen in this photo taken during a W.W. II parade. Austins Grocery store was located on the main floor, while the rest of the building had been converted into apartments.



WESTON'S GRAMMAR SCHOOL ESTABLISHED

One brisk autumn day in 1856 William Nason walked along the Plank Road and turned in at James Cruickshanks's Carriage Factory. His purpose? To discuss the possibility of a Grammar School for Weston — population 500, but growing! They agreed to approach William Tyrrell, the builder.

On February 4, 1857, in spite of opposition from Markham, York County Council authorized the school and appointed a Weston Board of Trustees. Mr. Tyrrell started a subscription list with \$500.00 and 2 acres of land just east of today's King and Elm Street corner. Reverend John Bullock Logan was appointed headmaster at a salary of £75 (\$375).

With about 20 pupils ranging in age from 8 - 18 he opened school on August 10, 1857, in the basement of the new Methodist Church, but within a few weeks moved to the fine old stone residence opposite the church. By 1858 the new school was ready: a two room, two storey building with a residence attached for the master and boarders.

Under the next three headmasters the numbers fluctuated

from the high of 74 in 1859 to a low of 38 in 1865, and due to the Education Act of 1871 it got its second name, Weston High School.

FIRE AT SCHOOL

On Thursday, March 25, 1875 the end came to that school with dramatic suddenness. About nine o'clock in the evening, just a few hours after the pupils and teachers had left for the Easter week-end, Mr. Raveill discovered fire in his apartment; within an hour the school had been totally destroyed.

Mr. Raveill, notified that his salary would be cut to \$700., resigned. Mr. George Wallace, a junior master at Upper Canada College, took the pupils back to the Methodist basement on April 7.

In spite of York County Council opposition, Mr. Tyrrell and the Board accepted the \$2000. insurance and subscriptions of \$480. and rebuilt the school on the same site and on the same plan.

In January, 1876 Weston High School opened with about 30 pupils. With the enthusiasm and dedication of the 29 year old George Wallace older students

began to enroll and the quality of the education earned the school a new respect — even an extra room.

Then decline. Why? The death of George Wallace at the age of 40, on February 25, 1886; frequent changes of headmaster and of assistants, continual money problems, competition from new schools in Toronto and finishing schools for the young ladies, declining relations between teachers and Board and a dilapidated building within and without.

With the boom of the late 1890's hope revived. A very successful Reunion proved the existence of a loyal alumni. The Board, realizing that if the school was to survive, it must bring back senior students and prestige, gambled on three new, young and inexperienced teachers — but each with a degree.

A second Reunion, August 29, 1907, saw no better facilities, but a fine spirit and a growing demand for a new school. In September 1909, Mr. Harstone with four teachers and 115 pupils, decided to offer Grade IV, Senior Matriculation, to bring back senior pupils from Toronto.

A STRAWBERRY PATCH

On January 14, 1910, the new Board of Trade took up the issue of a new school at their annual banquet; thus encouraged the School Board, at its February 2, 1910, meeting made a new school its first consideration. Wallace Cruickshank, Chairman of the Board, took a \$2. option on a strawberry patch on William Street belonging to Edward Eagle — soon purchased for \$6000.; George Sainsbury began the building June 1912. On Friday, September 27, 1912 the Cornerstone was laid; on August 28, 1913, the Ex-Pupils' Association held a "Farewell to the Old School" Ceremony; in October 95 pupils, Mr. Fairchild and three teachers moved into the new school.

From 1913 the school never looked back. One year before Weston had changed from village to town, Mr. Alex. Pearson began his long era as principal with a fine new school of six classrooms, an office, a laboratory, and a gymnasium-auditorium, and 95 pupils and three teachers. When he resigned in June 1936 he was principal of the only composite school in York-Weston High and

Vocational School — 28 classrooms, five shops, a library, a large gym-aud. on the first floor, a cafeteria, 933 pupils, 34 teachers, and a secretary.

The Vocational School had begun with Dr. E.F. Burton's election to the Board of Education in 1916 and a long campaign from 1916 to 1921 but with little success until the Adolescent Act of 1921 raised the school-leaving age to 16 brought a flood of pupils to the schools. Additions came quickly: four rooms to the High School in 1922, a gymnasium and Vocational School in 1923, 4 rooms at the north end of the High School and six rooms at the west end of the Vocational in 1925.

But, when Ernest H.G. Worden became principal in 1936 he took over a school of 1100 which had been built for 750. It gained its new name in 1939, Weston Collegiate and Vocational School, but a depression, World War II and new schools in York made further additions impossible. Attendance close to 1200 in September made further delay impossible. In March 1951, final plans were made for an addition of 16 classrooms, a gym and cafeteria. On September, 1953 the new addition opened. By 1967 — centennial year — the school was again overcrowded with 1532 pupils.

Even before C. Wesley Christie succeeded Mr. Worden on September 1958, it was clear that what was needed was an end to patchwork additions. The new name — Weston Collegiate Institute — had come in 1965. Then January 1, 1967 the Town of Weston became a part of the Borough of York. Almost immediately it was decided to build York's flagship school for new educational developments in Weston, on Pine Street, just east of the old school. In September 1969, Mr. W.H. Hill succeeded Mr. Christie to open the new era in W.C.I.'s history.

Dora Wattie
Weston Historical Society

staff of H.J. Alexander School continue to contribute to both the school and social life of Weston. This year the school choir will sing the Weston Centennial song, composed by their director, Mrs. E. Edwards.



St. John the Evangelist Separate School, whose history is described with that of the church, was first built on its present George St. site in 1892.

Weston Memorial School Originally Eight Rooms

On a sunny afternoon of July 5, 1919, the Honourable Dr. Cody, Minister of Education for the Province of Ontario, laid the corner stone of the Memorial Public School for the Weston Board of Education.* This original building consisted of eight rooms which presently constitute the northern portion of our existing two storey structure. The entry was from Queen's Drive and the original attractive Georgian type portico is still visible although the steps and entry way have disappeared.

Writing about our school history at this time and subsequently, Mr. Max Bemrose, (a former principal), states: "The yard on the east side, later enlarged, was the same size as that on the west. John St. from Pine to Jane was unimproved. A very large elm tree stood in the middle of it about opposite the entrance to the east yard. Then in 1929 a 4 room addition

was added along with a larger office, staff room, and an auditorium.

"The growth of Weston after World War II was rapid. The opening of the Senior Public School in 1948 eased the pressure on pupil space but not for long. By 1954 we had classes in the auditorium, staff room and office as well as 2 classrooms under the present office and library. In 1955, 6 rooms, with the front entrance changed to John St., were added. The present auditorium-gymnasium was added in 1966. During the 60 year history of the school the office is now in its sixth location."

*The sterling silver trowel used in the ceremony was found in the school. It was used by the children to plant the tree for our Silver Jubilee Ceremony in May of last year. It has a permanent home in the school office.

Post W.W. II Growth Creates C.R. Marchant S.S.

Weston Senior Public School was opened in 1948. It's first principal was Mr. Grant Gillespie, who later became the Director of the Board of Education for the Borough of York.

This type of school was organized to give students a wider educational experience. Subjects such as home economics, industrial arts, and instrumental music were offered. Operating on a half

time rotary basis, it helped ease the students into high school which were full rotary.

In 1967, when Metropolitan Toronto was reorganized into the borough system, Weston Senior Public School was renamed C.R. Marchant Senior Public School after Mr. Clifford Marchant, who had served the Weston Board of Education for many years as its business administrator.

H.J. Alexander, King St. Weston's First Public School

by Hazel Lee

A modest clapboard dwelling was home to the first students to attend school along the banks of the Humber, in 1833.

This house, situated on the west side of Weston Road, opposite Rectory Road, saw Captain John Pirritte as its first teacher. In 1842, the school was moved to the east side of Weston Rd. and Major John Paul was schoolmaster. Seven years later, this land was purchased and the first Common School was constructed under the jurisdiction of the Home District Council.

A modern brick, two room school was built on the same site in 1860, with the Latin inscription "Pro Bono Publico" engraved over the door. Always kept in good repair, it was sold for commercial purposes and later became a residential dwelling. This building was demolished recently.

A new site on King St. was purchased in 1892 and a six room brick structure was erected. Mr. R.H. Leighton was in charge until 1894. The first assistant, Edith M. Leewas was appointed in 1897 and continued to teach there until her retirement in 1932.

In April, 1903, H.J. Alexander became principal, a position he held until retirement in 1943.

In 1911, four additional rooms were added and the renovated building was opened in January, 1912. During renovation, the classes were held in basements of churches, the Town Hall and Sunday School rooms.

The teaching of music was discussed in 1903, but it wasn't until 1937 that a supervisor of music was appointed for Weston schools. Fire drills were established in 1904. By 1916, the old Public School Board was abolished and both high and elementary school came under the supervision of one Board of Education.

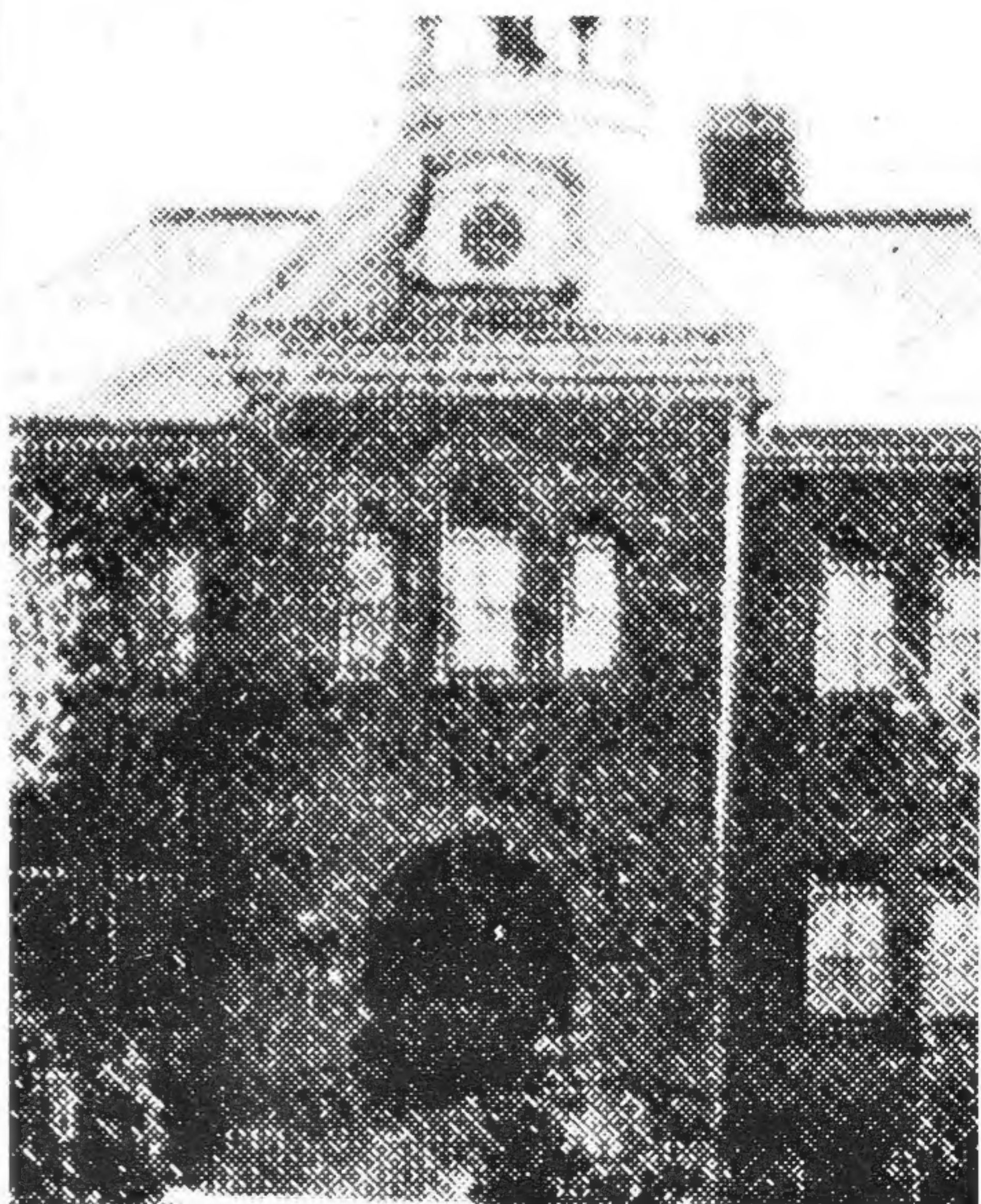
Katherine Campbell (Mrs. T.R. Simpson) was appointed acting principal after Mr. Alexander's retirement, a post she held until her retirement in 1956. At that time, the vice-principal, Harvey Jeffery became the new principal, continuing to serve until 1968.

Shortly after the Senior School (now C.R. Marchant) was opened, the Board of Education decided to add grade six to its roster. However, a decision to return

this grade to the elementary schools posed a problem for King St. school. Metro School Board refused permission to add two rooms to the old building. It was decided that an entirely new school would have to be constructed, which would include ten regular classrooms, plus a kindergarten and general purpose room. The building, designed by former pupil Harold Lindsay, was built on the former King St. School lawn.

Mrs. Ella Norman laid the corner stone for H.J. Alexander School on June 27, 1957 and classes opened on Monday November 18, 1957. The same day, demolition of the old building began. The auditorium was completed in 1958, while the present library was added later.

The principal, students and



King St. School, with its bell tower reaching for the sky, was the forerunner of H.J. Alexander School. In fact, Mr. Alexander was the principal at King St. School for 40 years.

Walking Tour of Weston

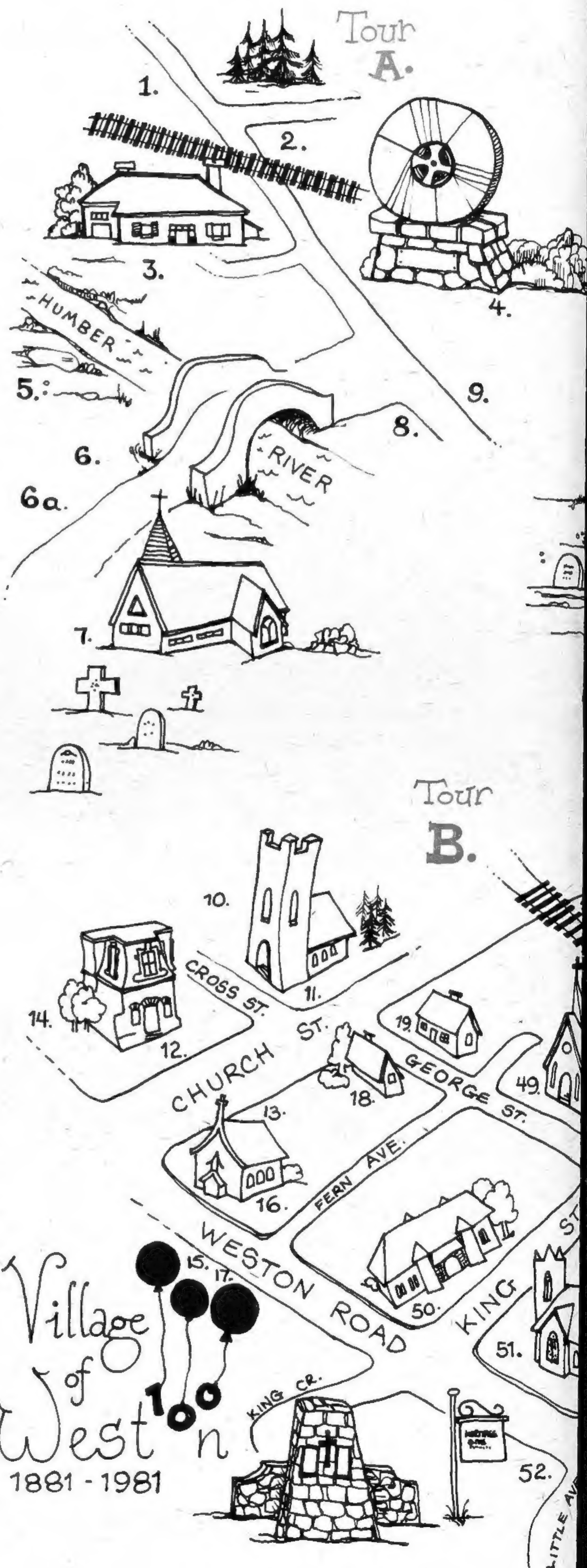
TOUR A

1. 2464 Weston Rd. Circa 1875.
2. 2417 Weston Rd. Circa 1878.
3. 6 Humberview Cres. Circa 1845.
Miller Joseph Holley replaced his first home, a log cabin with this adobe brick house — walls 22" thick. Present owners think the house could have been built as early as 1828. It is puzzling why Holley built with adobe brick in 1845 when superior fired brick was available.
4. The millstone in this parkette is the only physical remnant of Weston's milling history.
5. John Countryman, member of a British survey party, was so impressed with the area's timber quality that he constructed the first sawmill in Upper Canada — circa 1790, on what is now the ladies' third tee of the Weston Golf and Country Club.
6. Wadsworth Mill 1828 - 1915.
Operated successfully for 87 years by the Wadsworth's, the mill's foundations were visible until the Hurricane Hazel flood.
- 6a. The Wadsworth farm is now the Weston Golf and Country Club. The family mansion, Pine Hills, was used as the club house until 1967, when replaced by the present structure.
7. 31 St. Philip's Rd. St. Philip's Anglican Church — circa 1828. The congregation formed in 1828 or earlier, was served by "itinerant missionaries and lay people". The first church was constructed on this site in 1831 and burned in 1888. The church was rebuilt in 1894 and enlarged in 1955.
8. 2372 Weston Rd. Circa 1856.
Peter Mallaby relocated here after flooding washed away his store in the valley. Peter and his son Arthur, operated a blacksmith shop on the property and in later years, Arthur ran a general store on the site.
9. 2371 Weston Rd. Circa 1841.
Headquarters of the Weston Plank Road Company which built and maintained this road by charging tolls of five cents at intervals along its 18 miles from Weston, through Thistletown, Clairville to Coleraine.

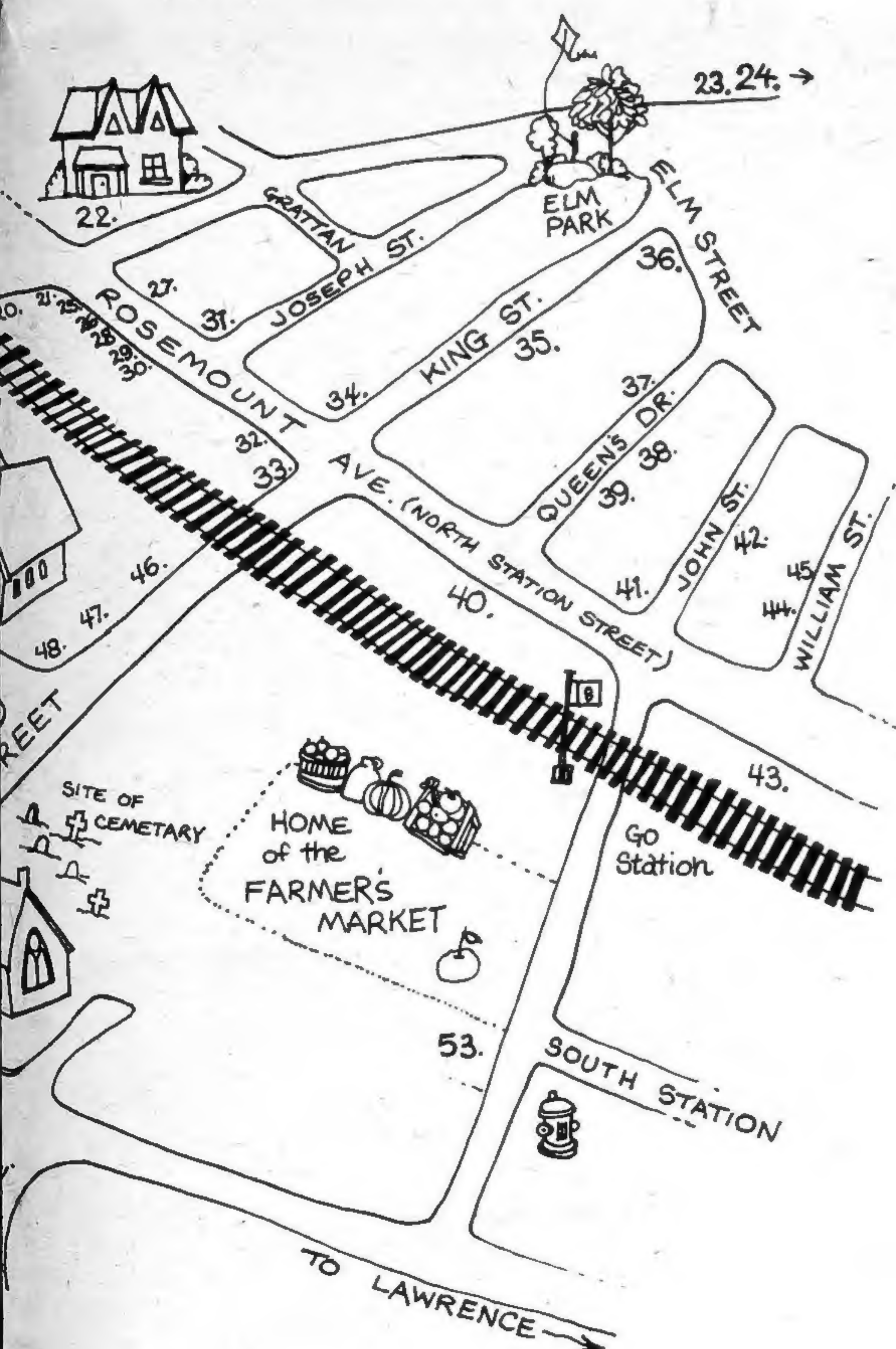
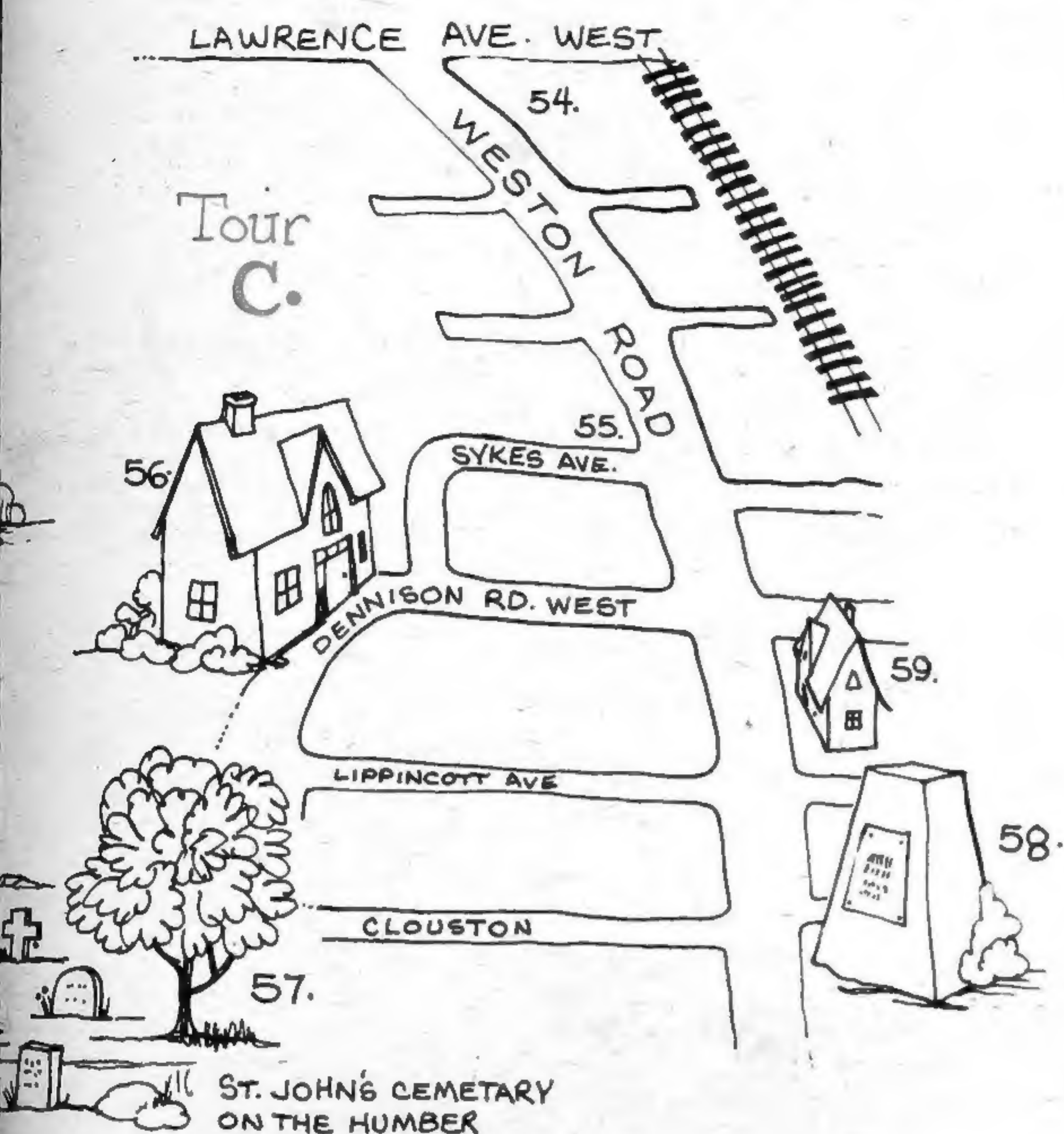
TOUR B

10. 31 Cross St. Circa 1850.
The present owner thinks this house may predate 1844.
11. 7 Cross St. Weston Presbyterian Church. Circa 1881.
Presbyterians met in many locations before building their church in 1865. The present building was constructed by William Tyrrell in 1881.
12. 24 Church St. The Oddfellows Hall. Circa 1838.
Originally a one-storey frame church, built in 1838, this building which gave Church St. its name, was owned and used by the Methodist Episcopal Church in the morning and loaned to the Presbyterians in the afternoon. The Oddfellows bought the building in 1886, added a second storey, and bricked the building in 1887.
13. 15 Church St. Circa 1854.
14. 2179 Weston Rd. Circa 1865.
15. 2112-14 Weston Rd. Circa 1865.
16. 2125 Weston Rd. St. John's Anglican Church. Circa 1859.
Originally situated on Rectory Road, this church was called the Chapel of Ease. Rev. Johnson of St. Philip's church financed its construction and did much of the interior carving himself. A subsequent minister preferred a more central location and before negotiating for a site, had the church put on skids and rolled down Weston Rd., while the frost was still in the ground. A telegraph wire obstructed the move. While arrangements were being made to have it moved, the spring thaw came and the church began to sink into the famous Weston Rd. mud. Dragged to the side of the road and left at an angle, it still sits there. The land was purchased after the fact and the reverend who started its journey was posted elsewhere before the purchase was completed. The original white frame chapel was bricked over in later years, but otherwise remains much the same.
17. 2104-06 Weston Rd. Circa 1865.
18. 66 George St. Circa 1859.
19. 63 George St. Circa 1844.
20. 51 Church St. Circa 1858.
This house had the convenience of a well, reached by a trap door in the dining room floor.
21. 57 Church St. Circa 1860.
21. 54 Church St. Circa 1860.
23. 140 Church St. Circa 1881.
24. 206 Church St. Circa 1881.
25. 176 Rosemount Ave. Circa 1861.
26. 174 Rosemount Ave. Circa 1874.
27. 171 Rosemount Ave. Circa 1870.
28. 168 Rosemount Ave. Circa 1874.
29. 164 Rosemount Ave. Circa 1877.
30. 162 Rosemount Ave. Circa 1863.
31. 149 Rosemount Ave. Circa 1864.
32. 130 Rosemount Ave. Circa 1865.

WALK the Hill
Village
1881



Historic WESTON



TOUR C

54. 1823-25 Weston Rd. Circa 1880.
55. 2 Sykes Ave. Circa 1865.
56. 64-66 Denison Ave. Circa 1864.
57. St. John's Cemetery on the Humber. This site was set aside by John Denison in 1801 to be the burial grounds of those of his blood, along with their wives and husbands.
58. Toronto Carrying Place. A plaque outlines significant historic events related to Weston Rd.
59. 1613 Weston Rd. Circa 1870.

For a guided walking tour, come to Memorial Park, on Little Ave., June 7 - 1:30 p.m., when the University Womens' Club will conduct two free tours.

THROUGH THE EYES OF THE PRESENT GENERATION

What's This All About?

Chairman of Weston Centennial
by Chris Thorn

Mrs. Rothery what is your job as chairperson of Weston Centennial? Who else is on the Centennial committee, and how will money be raised for the celebrations?

"The Weston Centennial Co-ordinating Committee was formed over a year ago. Representatives from the Weston Historical Society came to the February, 1980 meeting of the Weston Residents and Ratepayers Association, to bring the upcoming Centennial to their attention. An ad hoc committee struck that night subsequently recommended that a Centennial Co-ordinating Committee be formed with two representatives from the Historical Society, two from the Ratepayers, two from the Weston Business Improvement Area (W.B.I.A.), one from the Weston Lions Club, one from the Rotary Club of Weston, and one from the churches; with a treasurer, corresponding secretary, and recording secretary with those skills from the community.

The people filling these positions are: Weston Historical Society — Marj. Mossman, Helen Hamilton; Weston Residents & Ratepayers — Shirley Rothery, Jim Pole Langdon; Weston Business Improvement Area — Wilf Reeves, Ken Johns; Weston Lions Club — Jim Trimbee; Rotary Club of Weston — Bob McLean; Churches — Rev. Les Upward; Treasurer — Barb Zvanitajs; Recording Secretary — Eva Cargill.

A public meeting was called for May, 1980, with notices being sent out to over 50 organizations. The composition of the Centennial Co-ordinating Committee was approved and the first goal of the Centennial Co-ordinating Committee — "to encourage Centennial events" began to be accomplished that evening.

As chairman, my job is to see that our goals of encouraging and co-ordinating Centennial events are accomplished. The Centennial Co-ordinating Committee has established three sub-committees to accomplish these goals: Program Committee, Funding Committee, Public Relations Committee.

The Program Committee outlined a tentative schedule of events, then contacted all churches, schools, clubs and associations in Weston; told them about the Centennial and asked them to participate.

It takes money to have a party so the Funding Committee got busy and made application to Wintario and local businesses for funds. To date, they have raised \$11,000.

Most of the money will be spent by the Public Relations Committee on projects such as: a centennial newspaper, railway overpass banners, 50 heritage building signs for buildings 100 years or older, posters, flyers, and buttons. Mailing and parade costs will take the remainder of the budget.

We have succeeded in our second goal — co-ordination, by planning early and by holding monthly meetings to keep everyone involved, informed."

Funding Committee
Bob Chrysdale (Chairman)
David Thorn
Lois Lane
Ken Johns
Shirley Rothery

Program Committee
Jim Trimbee (Chairman)

Marj. Mossman
Bob McLean
Shirley Rothery

Public Relations Committee
Barb Jafelice (Chairman)
Mike Janetakes
Marlene Madore
Rick Brown
Judi Latour
Shirley Rothery

Is Weston a special part of Metro Toronto?

"Weston is now part of Metropolitan Toronto but originally it was a small hamlet in the valley of the Humber River in the St. Philips bridge area. In 1790 when John Countryman built the first saw mill in the Weston area the surrounding countryside was covered with a dense forest of white pine and oak, described as the finest timber in Upper Canada.

The area prospered and was incorporated as a village in 1881 with a population 965. Town status was achieved in 1915. Weston functioned as a separate town until 1967 when it was amalgamated with the Borough of York. By that time, of course, Metropolitan Toronto had grown up all around Weston."

In what ways is the Centennial important?

"I think the Centennial is important because it will give people who know and love Weston a chance to share their knowledge and love with newcomers. In this way the warm sense of community and community pride that exists here will continue for many years to come."

Interview with
Mrs. Rothery

C.R. Marchant Principal

by Claire Massabki

Recently, I interviewed Mr. B. Eatough, Principal of C.R. Marchant School. Mr. Eatough became Principal of that school in 1979. The school was built in 1948 and had an addition put on in 1970.

C.R. Marchant is having an Open House with the theme "Weston's Centennial". On June 13, 1981, C.R. Marchant's band is playing in the fair ground and has an entry in the Weston Centennial Parade.

Mr. Eatough believes that the kids in Weston have not really changed. Mr. Eatough enjoys working with grades 7 and 8 because he used to coach a hockey team with kids in grades 7 and 8 and liked their sense of humour, their own opinions, and they are at an enjoyable age. He thinks his job is challenging and likes it very much.

Mr. Eatough thinks it is a great opportunity to grow up in a small town like Weston. He attended King Street Public School and Weston Collegiate where he played football. He also played lacrosse, baseball, hockey and more! He played on a Weston team which won an Ontario championship.

When Mr. Eatough graduated from Teachers College, he had many opportunities for jobs, but accepted one in Weston. He believes teachers' jobs have become more difficult and challenging over the years.

Mr. Eatough agrees Weston indeed should celebrate Weston's Centennial. He says many former residents of Weston still live here, or have even moved out and come back.



The author's of these articles attend Weston Memorial School and include, along with their teacher: Top Row: Hugh Montgomery, Mrs. Skinner, Chris Henry. Middle row: Leo Vutmeij, Chris Bert, Jeff Sintzel. Lower row: Chris Thorn, Kate Ashbourne, Claire Massabki, Andrew Tschernow.

Weston Merchant

by Hughie Montgomery

Q. How long have you owned your store?

A. We're going into our 18th year on John Street in Weston.

Q. When you were little, did you originally want to be in the business of selling men's wear?

A. No, not at all. I thought the greatest thing in the world was to be a naturalist. I thought selling men's wear was dull, when I was little.

Q. Are you doing anything special to remember Weston's Centennial year?

A. We're working our way quietly here, and we're looking forward to the big parade, because in the parade we are trying to get an old, old outhouse, because our business has always been associated with Ken's John.

Q. How long have you been in the Weston Businessmens Association?

A. 31 years. Ever since I've been in Weston.

Q. What happened to you when you opened Ken John's Men's Wear?

A. My nerves were shattered for weeks. It is a terrifying experience when you have been sort of safe and secure, getting your pay cheque every week.

Q. Did any particular happening occur to you to make you decide to go into selling men's clothing?

A. Nothing in particular. I tried to sell life insurance but I wasn't really cut out for that because it is a tough, tough line of work.

Q. Do you think it would be a good idea if more people were to own businesses in Weston?

A. As opposed to chain stores you mean? Well, yes, you have to have a mixture of independent and chain stores.

Q. What do you think would improve business in Weston?

A. I think the only thing that would improve business in Weston is the attitude of the store keepers. I've been told that this kind of business is on the way out, but if, for example, Mrs. Dandy were to go to Eaton's, they wouldn't know her, so I think friendship counts.

Mr. Eatough thinks a good thing for Weston would be to maintain the small town atmosphere.

Interview with
Mr. B. Eatough, Principal
C.R. Marchant Sr. School

Mayor's Weston Thoughts

by Chris Hendry

In an interview on Friday, April 10, 1981, Mayor Gayle Christie, the first woman to become Mayor of the Borough of York, (which includes the former town of Weston) talks about her memories of Weston, and her wishes for its citizens during their Centennial Year.

Q. What is your first memory of Weston?

A. Well, I remember going dancing at Weston Collegiate, and shopping at Kresge's.

Q. How are you going to celebrate the Weston Centennial?

A. I am going to be in the parade. I am also going to be getting a horse drawn carriage and a period costume.

Q. Do you foresee any major changes in Weston?

A. No. Because Weston is a beautiful town.

Q. Do you have any wishes for the people of Weston, and the Borough of York?

A. Yes. One of my wishes is that the people of York could be as proud of York as the people of Weston are of their town.

Q. In the last hundred years, has Weston changed?

A. Oh yes, definitely. It has changed a great deal since I can remember.

Q. Did you ever go to school in Weston?

A. No, not as a student. There was a place on John Street run by the Y.M.C.A. or the Y.W.C.A. There used to be dances there. That was when I was 15, 16, and 17. I used to go to Weston Collegiate where they played football and cheer the teams on.

Q. What do you like best about Weston?

A. Well, I am a different kind of person. I like the people best.

Q. Do you like the office of Mayor?

A. Yes, because it is one of the most challenging positions there is.

Interview with
Mayor Gayle Christie



During the 1940's, such parades such as this were common along Weston Road. Note the old hotel was still standing at the corner of Ellesmere and Weston Road.



This was one way to get around in Weston winters. Jim Coulter used his dog to pull his sled in this photograph taken at Weston Road, near Coulter Ave.

Owning A Centennial Home

by Chris Berti

Q. Who informed you that this is a centennial house?

A. We got a letter from the Borough regarding it.

Q. How old is the house?

A. About 110 years old.

Q. When did you move in?

A. 1954

Q. Who first owned the house?

A. Mr. Forsythe, and he built the house.

Q. Do you know anyone else who owns a centennial house?

A. The one next door is a centennial house.

Q. Do you think the Borough should do more to preserve old houses?

A. Yes, yes.

Q. Are there going to be any signs to say that this is a centennial house?

A. Yes, they are putting a sign on the house.

Q. Have you lived anywhere else besides Weston?

A. Nowhere else but Weston.

Q. What school did you go to?

A. King Street School.

Q. Did you have a favourite teacher?

A. No, I didn't really have any favourite one. They were all very nice.

Q. Where did you work?

A. The Post Office. I worked in several smaller places to start. The building on the corner, across from Shopper's Drug Mart used to be the post office.

Q. Did you like your work?

A. Oh yes, I did. I enjoyed it.

Q. Do you have any relatives in Weston?

A. My niece — Miss Marie Allen.

Q. What changes do you remember?

A. Weston was a very small village, with mud roads and horses and buggies. There were streetcars in the middle of Weston Road. Then they were moved to the far side. Weston Road used to be called Main Street and that is where I first lived. You couldn't cross the road for the mud when it rained in those days.

Q. Do you think Weston is a nice place?

A. Wonderful!

Interview with
Miss Ethel Smith,
Weston Resident

Mrs. Hawkrigg Teaches 43 Years

by Leo Vutmeij

MRS. N. HAWKRIGG

Q. How do you like living in Weston?

A. Although I do not live in Weston, my home is close enough that I do most of my shopping on Weston Road.

Q. How long have you been living in Weston?

A. I have been living in the Weston area for thirty-one years. During five of those years my husband and I enjoyed living on Elm Street.

Q. How long have you been teaching?

A. At the end of June, 1981, I will have taught for forty-three years.

Q. Do you like to teach?

A. Yes. It has been a rewarding experience.

Q. Would you like to teach any other grade besides Grade 2?

A. Grade Two has always been my favourite grade.

Q. Was Weston Memorial School your first school in which you taught?

A. For my first three years I taught in a one-room rural school at Snelgrove, Ontario. The next two years were spent in the Primary Grades (one to four) at Huttonsville, Ontario. Then I came to Weston Memorial in

September, 1943.

Q. Are children different than they were years ago?

A. Children today have a broader general knowledge because of television.

Q. Is there any other job you would like to do?

A. No. I have always enjoyed being at school.

Q. What do you do beside teaching?

A. I look after our home, attend Church, go bowling, holiday at the cottage and I have some hobbies.

Q. Why did you want to be a teacher?

A. My aunt, who taught Grade Two for many years, inspired and encouraged me to enter the teaching profession.

Q. If you didn't find this job, where would you work?

A. Perhaps I would teach in another school, or work in an office.

Q. How are we going to celebrate the Centennial?

A. The boys and girls of Weston Memorial are presently preparing a spring concert in honour of Weston's Centennial. It is to be held on the evenings of April 30 and May 1. The proceeds from



Gingerbread and ivy decorate the side entrance of the Shaw house on William St. This home is one of many centennial houses displaying classic and unique 1800's architecture.

Little Town In Big City

by Andy Tschernow

Mrs. Mustard has lived in Weston for nearly fifty years. There were a lot of fields and meadows behind her house, on Robert St.

Back when Mrs. Mustard was a child, she used to play marbles with other children. Ice cream and popcorn were the famous and delicious treats back then. As far as Mrs. Mustard remembered, a movie used to have a reasonable price — like five or ten cents. People mostly took trains and streetcars to get back and forth. Mrs. Mustard's house is around fifty years old.

The fashion of clothes back then was a little bit different. They used to wear the school colours too, and wore school uniforms to High School.

The church she went to is

still standing. She still goes to it too. For pets, she used to have a lot of dogs and cats. The telephones were very similar to the ones we have now. What was different about the 'phones was that there was an operator who said "number please", and when one picked up the receiver, you told her the number. Her mother owned a wringer washing machine, which sometimes had little problems here and there. Most people had television sets in the fifties, but some people, like Mrs. Mustard, didn't have one until later. Mrs. Mustard concluded by saying that living in Weston is very enjoyable because it is like living in a big city and a little town at the same time.

(Mrs. Mustard makes delicious cookies, too!)

A. Lots of jobs. If I hadn't been teaching I probably would have been building.

Q. What do you think could improve this school?

A. Oh, I don't know — maybe a new principal.

Q. Do you think being a principal is a good job?

A. Yes. If you like to be a principal. If you don't like the job then it is miserable.

Interview with
Mrs. N. Hawkrigg, Teacher
Mr. J. Condie, Principal

Library Has 40,000 Books

by Jeff Sintzel

Mrs. O'Neill, the head librarian of the Weston Public Library, has worked there since December, 1980. She says she likes her work very much. She liked to read books when she was younger and still does.

Other than the Eglinton-Dufferin Library, and Jane-Dundas branch, the Weston Public Library is the third busiest in the borough, and has approximately 40,000 books. Last year, Mrs. O'Neill had a club, called "Super Readers" to encourage children to read. She gives them a bibliography; they then have a contest for reading. Authors have been to the library, but not recently. The library was built in 1914. Since Mrs. O'Neill has been the head librarian, she has made changes, like changing furniture and adding programmes.

The library is doing as much as they can for the Centennial, but with the renovations going on, they can't do as much as they might like to. They do have a lot of information on the history of Weston. Mrs. O'Neill thinks it is important to celebrate the Centennial because we remember the past. She says Weston is different than other parts of the city because it has a sense of community and it reminds her of where she grew up.

The renovations have been taking place since March 23, 1981. Mostly all of the old library is going to remain. Things that aren't are the furniture, paint and the ceiling. She says the library will be better and improved because it will be bigger, modern, contain a better study place, and

have a larger staff room. There are going to be special programmes after the renovations. There will be more for children and adults!

Interview with
Mrs. B. O'Neill,
Librarian, Weston Public Library

Weston Memorial Principal

by Leo Vutmeij

'MR. J. CONDIE

Q. Do you like to be a principal?

A. Yes, very much.

Q. How long have you been a principal?

A. About 18 years.

Q. Do you like to work at this school?

A. I like it very much, it is a lovely school.

Q. Why did you want to be a principal?

A. Well, I like it, it gives me interest to my own life.

Q. Do you have any hobbies?

A. As a matter of fact I have many hobbies. I am very keen on woodwork.

Q. Are children different than they were a long time ago?

A. I don't think so. Well, they're certainly no worse, maybe better.

Q. Was Weston Memorial School your first school in which you taught?

A. No. I started teaching at Harwood over 30 years ago.

Q. Is there any other job you would like to do?

the sale of tickets will go to buy a wheel-chair for the Weston Unit of the Red Cross Society. Some of the older students are studying about Weston's history.

Q. Do you have any hobbies?

A. My hobbies include bird-watching, bowling, doing needle point, playing bridge and travelling.

Q. How long have you been teaching Grade two?

A. For thirty-eight years I have always taught Grade two. However, one year there were also a few Grade one pupils and upon another occasion a few Grade three pupils were enrolled with the twos.

Shaw Sisters Remember Weston's Past

by Kate Ashbourne

Growing up in Weston was lots of fun for kids because you could do almost anything you wanted to do. But when school came, it was not a lot of fun. You had to sit in a double-seated desk, and if you talked, you would get strapped.

When you were just listening, you had to put your hands behind your back.

In grade eight, you had to pass your entrance exams to go to high school.

When the war began, the Red Cross asked the pupils of the King St. School to raise money. "But do not ask you parents, because we are", they said. So the pupils in Mr. Alexander's class put on a bake sale and sold everything.

If you got in an accident you would not go to a hospital. You would stay at home. Miss Shaw's father broke his hip and had to lie very still in bed for a year until it got better.

In the winter you would have fun too. You could go sliding on your sled all over Weston. Then to get back you would hook onto a sleigh, put your feet on the runners and away you went.

Did you know that there was a tree orchard where Kresge's parking lot is now? Well there was, and there was a teeter-totter too.

In High School, all teenagers knew how to sew, and that's a change from today.

Church was your spiritual guide and your social life. The Young People's of the church had lots of fun. They would go on sleigh rides up to Emery with hot bricks to keep their feet warm, and buffalo robes to keep out the wind.

Interview with
Miss Florence Shaw and
Mrs. Connie Switzer



NOTICE

Any of the "DESERVING POOR" of the Village of Weston and Neighbourhood, who wish to partake of the "WADSWORTH BOUNTY," must signify their names to the one or the other of the Churchwardens on or before

the _____ day of December, 1869
By order of the Churchwardens.



After years of debate and discussion, the Weston Library will be providing full adult and children programs in September.

HURRICANE HAZEL DEVASTATES WESTON IN OCTOBER, 1954

by Neil Christenson

Hurricane Hazel struck the Weston area on Friday, Oct. 15, 1954.

I was working at the A.V. Roe Canada plant in Malton at the time.

On the way home from work, it was raining heavily. After supper, my son Ronald and I headed for the Crang Plaza. It was still pouring. In those days, Wilson Ave. was bounded mainly by fields. As we travelled east along Wilson Ave. I noticed something very strange... water was lapping along the ground. I knew something was radically wrong, so we quickly turned around and came home.

I was slated to go to work the next day and so I was up for breakfast at 5:30 a.m. I usually crossed the Humber River at St. Philip's Bridge. When I got there, the bridge was still there, but both approaches were washed away. The 401 Highway was just being constructed. The 401 bridge held, but water was lapping over the top.

UNDAUNTED

Determined to get to work, I travelled up Weston Road to the Albion Road. Here I was stopped by two men who were guarding this bridge. They would not allow anyone to cross.

Undaunted, I travelled south on Weston Road to West Toronto and I finally got across the river at the Dundas Street bridge. I travelled to Malton, only to find the big plant was closed.

I came home and decided to go down to the Weston Town Hall.

A group of men came in and asked for directions to cross the Humber. They were told there was no way you could cross the river in the Weston area.

One of the men looked familiar. I looked again and realized that this man was the Hon. Leslie Frost, Premier of Ontario.

I approached the group and told them that I knew a place across the river. "Come with us," said the Premier. He grabbed my arm and marched me out to his limousine, settled me in the front between his chauffeur and himself, and away we went up Weston Road.

The St. Philip's bridge looked like it was sitting in the middle of a lake, the water was still lapping over the 401 bridge, but we got across the old Albion Road bridge.

DEVASTATION

We drove down the streets behind the Weston Golf Course and onto Scarlett Road and finally to Raymore Drive.

What a sight. Nearly all the houses on that street were swept down the river, some with people still in them, screaming for help. An area at least a quarter mile by three-quarters of a mile was almost completely covered with rocks carried down the river by the flood water. It was a terrible sight and only a small part of the suffering and devastation caused by Hurricane Hazel. Twenty five years later, the area has been turned into a park, appropriately enough named, Raymore Park.

Library Extension Takes Off, To Be Open In The Autumn

The present Weston library building was opened in 1914. Here is an account from the History of Weston, by F. D. Cruickshank and J. Nason — "The formal opening of the Weston Carnegie Library building at the corner of Main and King Streets took place on Tuesday night (December 31st, 1914). The new building recently completed is a fine specimen of architecture and a splendid tribute to the untiring energy and perseverance of the Board of Directors.

A person entering the building is impressed with the idea that the Board has left nothing undone to make for the comfort and convenience of patrons and visitors. The lights are restful to the eye and seem to the casual observer to be all that can be desired."

In 1937 the Weston Library annual report presented this information: "3,442 members; 7,882 adult and 2,870 juvenile books in the library; 43,823 adult and 18,099 juvenile circulation, of which 6,941 are on fiction."

In 1967, when the new Borough system for the Metropolitan Toronto area was put in place Weston became part of the Borough of York. The York Public Library Board was then responsible for the public library operation in Weston. Over these past years there has been a steady increase in library holdings and a new emphasis on what a library can offer to a community. Statistics for 1980 indicate this progress: Book Stock 34,896;

circulation of library materials 123,566.

The new library pavilion (the addition) is designed to be in character with the original library. A low-level interconnecting passage will tie the two structures together.

The new pavilion will be built of bricks matching, as nearly as possible, the original ones. They will be "John Price" bricks, hand made so as to maintain many of the qualities of the hand-made "John Price" bricks of the old building. Materials and lines of the new structure are to complement, but not to overpower, the architecture of the original building.

Windows in the present building will be restored and retained. Walls will be sandblasted so that the original surface will be in view and the ceiling will be returned to the vaulted style of the 1914 building. Interior furnishings and equipment will be chosen to enhance the overall concept of the library.

The complete area will be about 11,900 sq. ft., with approximately 8,600 sq. ft. in the public service sections. The new library will be carpeted throughout in a colour co-ordinated with the furnishings.

The Adult department will be on the main floor. There will be study areas and audio-visual listening stations. Display units will be located in the foyer as well as in the circulation sections. The Boys and Girls department will be on the lower level along

with a story hour room and stacks.

To ease access for the handicapped, there will be a ramp and an elevator. The washrooms are designed with the handicapped in mind. Access from the street has been kept at an easy level, again for the handicapped. Lighting will be of a high standard, yet unobtrusive.

With the physical space augmented, the staff will be able to provide better service to the community as a whole by supplying the best library materials and by fulfilling the basic function of a library as an information and educational resource for all citizens. Extension services for adults, such as lectures, various courses, programmes for community organizations; and, for children, arts and crafts, theatre, storytime and puppet plays will be provided.

The future for the library of Weston looks as bright as the anticipated new building, which will be erected by the architectural firm of Dunlop, Farrow, Aitken and a local contracting firm, Gioia Investments Inc.

We feel that when a report is written in the year 2048, the 1914 words could be repeated, "A person entering the building is impressed with the idea that the Board has left nothing undone to make for the comfort and convenience of patrons and visitors."



Lions Club of Weston Start Centennial Year by Hosting Wintario

On January 1, 1981, Wintario was brought to Weston by the Weston Lions Club to kick off Centennial celebrations of the former town of Weston.

The pre-show entertainment was provided by the chancellors from Central United Church who thrilled the capacity crowd of over seven hundred at Weston Collegiate.

Several presentations were made. Mr. Lindsay Cott of the Weston Town Centre Businessmen Association presented a cheque for \$5000.00 to Mrs. Shirley Rothery, Chairman of the Weston Centennial Committee. This money is to be used to promote Centennial activities in the community.

Mr. Peter Montgomerie presented a cheque for \$6260.00 to the President of the Canadian Cancer Society Weston Branch, Mr. Bill Jackson. The money was raised at the Terry Fox Skateathon sponsored by the Lions Club of Weston, the Weston Minor Hockey League, and Mr. Louis Stong of the Weston Summer Skating School.

Also introduced was Miss Anna Giuliani who won the first prize of \$100.00 for her design of the Weston Centennial logo.

During the Wintario program, shots of several historical sites in the former town of Weston provided by the Weston Historical Society were shown. Several residents selected to be button pushers were interviewed. Among these were Mrs. Mossman and Mrs. Hamilton of the Weston Historical Society who were appropriately dressed in period costume.

This was a great introduction for Centennial celebrations and at the same time assisted the Lions Club of Weston in community benevolent work.



Receding water still laps at the Lawrence Ave. bridge the morning after major flooding. Most bridge approaches were wiped out.



Houses tilt at crazy angles as they float from their foundations on Fairglan Ave., just north of the CNR railway trestle.



The old swinging bridge is a thing of the past, as this main link between Weston and Westmount, located in Lions Park, was swept down the river after Hazel struck.

The John Countryman Chapter

I.O.G.E.

15 HAVING-A

PIE+CAKE

at the Centennial Picnic (Fairground)

CONTEST

SAT. JUNE 13th.

1st. PRIZE \$25.

2ND. \$15.

3RD. \$10.

FOR ENTRY FORMS AND INFORMATION 244-2987

PASTIMES OF A CENTURY

LAWN BOWLING - THE OLDEST GAME IN TOWN

The Weston Lawn Bowling Club is the oldest athletic club in Weston.

Cricket and lacrosse clubs were operating before the bowlers, but they faded into extinction. Horse racing was also in operation at the "Fair Grounds" for many years.

The earliest minute book available starts in 1928. Names of some of the oldest families in Weston are sprinkled in amongst all the motions, along with reports of some of the members winning efforts.

The club, originally operated on Queen's Dr. but moved to Weston around 1910. The property was finally purchased in 1939. The earlier location is believed to be on property near the Masonic Hall.

The Weston club was the first lawn bowling establishment in the West Toronto area, however, Parkdale, Kew Beach, Balmy Beach, Brampton, High Park are

some of the still existing clubs mentioned in earlier competition records.

In the 1923 constitution, it is mentioned that any ungentlemanly conduct within or outside the club would be cause for dismissal of any member. Women were only granted the privilege of using the greens on one afternoon, and one evening in the week when first allowed to participate.

The Provincial tournament's Gold Cup was won by club members, Steve Hill, Bill Burgess, "Doc" Inch and Stan Chapman, in 1934. In the mid 1950's the "Oshawa Gold Cup" was captured by the team skipped by Fred Templeman.

The next major trophy won was the United States Fours Championship in 1972. This team comprised of Oscar Fillman, lead Freddie Smith, second, John Robertson as vice with A. D. Templeman as skip.

In 1979, the Mens Pairs from Weston won the Ontario championship at Burlington Greens and went on to finish second at the Dominion Championship's in Montreal.

Ruth Snider won the Provincial championship in 1980 at Willowdale Greens, then went on to represent Ontario in Regina as the Singles champion.

The women now outnumber the men as members and now have their own tournaments and participate in mixed events. This year the Weston women, under the leadership of Estelle McCool, president, are helping sponsor the World's Bowls for ladies at the Willowdale club.

The Weston Lawn Bowling Club welcomes new members at its location, 2059, anytime after the official opening Victoria Day weekend.



This is the earliest photo of bowling on the green, taken in Weston in 1897. Apparently the Toronto Thistles drew the Weston Heather's to a tie on July 17, somewhere in the village.

Weston Senior Lacrosse Team Captured Mann Cup in 1926

Although Cricket was the earliest sport played in Weston, its popularity faded, as the Town was captivated by the colourful, exciting, crowd-pleasing game of field lacrosse.

As early as 1882, Weston had one of the best teams in the Province, winning many honours. The field location was changed a few times over the years. Games were held first on north-end railway property, then near the C.C.M. plant, then Scarlett Rd.

Finally an excellent field, both for playing and viewing was located inside the trotting race track in Weston Fair Grounds, now our present recreation centre.

Weston became famous as a "Lacrosse Town", producing many trophy winning Junior and Intermediate teams. The Intermediate team of 1914-15, is considered the greatest of all time, losing only one game.

As teams were built up, the Senior series became the important one, capturing the Senior O.A.L.A. from 1922 to 1927.

In 1926 after defeating Quebec, the team travelled West winning the supreme, lacrosse trophy, the

Mann Cup. In 1927, the Town Council under, fiery, red-haired Mayor Bob Flynn, honoured the team with presentations. Names of players of this sporting era would include, F.W. Rountree, F. Harrison, A.R. Smith, N. Riley, G. Coulter, P. Laceby, G. Dicken, E. Holley, L. Ramshaw, L. McEwen, H. Coulter, W. Coulter, W. Wilson, E. and K. Kingdon, Bob Stephenson, Hap. Holley, Ellerby Farr, E. Brown and others.

The 1930's brought to an end field lacrosse in our town. Box lacrosse, never got off the ground here. Some of our boys joined a team, sponsored by Mount Dennis Firemen. Art Greenwood, goalie, Ed. Dodd, Graham Wood, the Barron brothers and names of Baines, Hatton, Hall, Cordick, Wilson and Rupe Barker are remembered.

Some went on to play at the Maple Leaf Gardens for the Marlboro's and others travelled as far as California for exhibition games. Hockey? Old-timers would dispute its acceptance as Canada's national game. Canada's pride and joy, . . . LACROSSE.

Maypole Mixups Make Miss Mad

By Elsie MacPherson

May was serious business for our Miss Briggs, who was in charge of the Junior W.A. at St. John's Church. As I remember, Miss Briggs was a capable, rather brusque, bossy, woman.

The Briggs home was on King St., between the railroad tracks and the Moffat estate. It had a gorgeous lawn for garden parties, (if you like garden parties). When May came, up would go the Maypole, with long pink and white ribbons floating from the top.

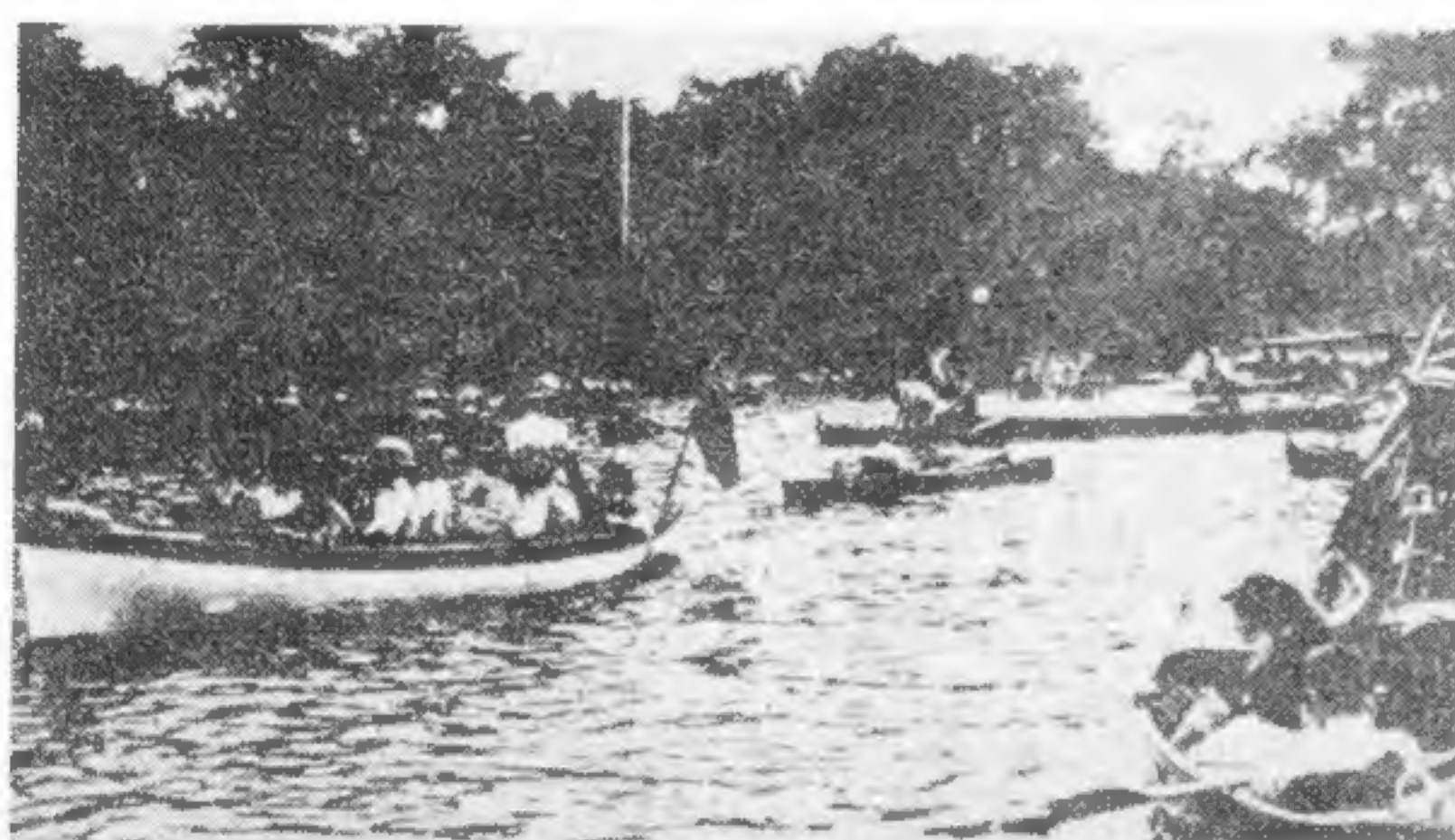
The stage was set, all that was needed now, was to recruit twelve unsuspecting nine year old girls, from the W.A. Many practices were involved, and we would go after school, (King St. school was just across the road) to prance and dance, weave and bob, and pray for rain on Saturday. Practice sessions were sheer torture, and before long, it was six for, and six against, as the "dancer" opposite became an opponent in combat. Hop, skip, trip, hop, skip, trip, accompanied by screams of "NO MISTEPS, Ple-e-ase the T-I-B-B-O-N-S are weaving a P-A-T T-E-R-N. Stop - - Start Again, and this time - - Ple-e-e-ase.

The day arrives, hot sun shining brightly. Important guests are there, the Bishop, the ministers, teachers, and of course, our parents. Ladies with big hats, parasols, and long eyelet dresses, men in dark suits, hats, hard collared shirts and ties. Not an open-necked sport shirt in the crowd. And we "girls" on, my, corkscrew curls, hair ribbons, frilled dresses, white stockings and patent leather shoes.

The piano is wheeled out on the lawn, Miss Briggs settles on the piano bench, hands poised above the keyboard like birds of prey ready to pounce. Places, girls, ready now, - go. Proud parents watching, gawky dancers, concentrating on ribbons and music, hoarse whispers of, wrong way, this way oh, my feet!

Well, you guessed it, a complete foulup of ribbons and kids. But, dip and dive until the bitter end, and finish with a flourish of sorts, amidst loud clapping from, guess who, our parents of course. Tea and cakes on the lawn, complete fiasco. Best part of the day yet to come, when we race home to change and head for the Humber River to hunt for shells.

A day in May, Miss Briggs? Let's not revive this one.



Various dams to service lumber and grist mills created ponds which were used for many recreational pastimes such as swimming. It is obvious that Sunday boating on the Humber was popular around the turn of the century.

Anyone For Tennis?

The Weston Tennis Club opened its doors to the public in 1928 on the Little Ave. park site. The two grass courts were supervised by the then president, Ernest Banting.

In 1932, four clay courts were built adjacent to the Humber River and Lawrence Ave. Robert Ashford was president.

The whole of the recreational area which included the Area, Lacrosse box and tennis club became the responsibility of the Lions Club in 1948. Plans were drawn up to add two more courts, to give the tennis club a total of six playing areas.

Unfortunately, Hurricane Hazel washed both the courts and club house away.

The club house was replaced with a one-room hut and new asphalt courts were laid, which were in use until 1971. That year saw a complete renovation taking



Weston Tennis Club inter-competition winners for 1946 were from left Cecil Brown, Runner up; Betty Johnson, runner up; Laurie Jones, single mens winner; Mary Farchine, ladies single winner.

place, including new lighting and courts with a rubberized surface.

Later, a larger clubhouse was built with complete facilities for hosting other clubs in competition.



Weston's Miller Athletic Club won the 1946 Ontario Junior "C" Championship. Members included from left: Front row: Blake Eatough, Chuck Ellis, Ron Hurst, Ed Calhoun, Bruce Hales, Allan Chard. Middle row: Tom Everett, Gord Burlington, Bob Dillon, Lefty Chard, Herb Gray, Remo Florion, unknown, Ab Crocker, (coach). Back row: Frank Stevenson, Bill Gallagher, Ted Downer, unknown.



Weston Lacrosse Club, Toronto Junior League Champions, 1907 First row - left to right: G. Coulter, L. McEwen, R. Munshaw, G. Mackay, C. Bowers; Second row: D. Holley, R. Rowntree, G. McFarlane, M. Holley, R. Irvine; Top row: J. Leitch, K. Cruickshank, Dr. E. F. Irwin, W. McFarlane, H. Hugill, Mgr. F. Irvine

Only once in 100 years - don't miss it! A Pictorial History of Weston prepared and offered by the Weston Historical Society.

This 64 page, soft covered book features approximately 100 photos.

You save by ordering before June 19/81. Orders received before this date will be \$5. More after! There is an additional \$1. for mailing charges.

Please send cheque or money order. Print name and address.

For advance orders, contact: Mrs. M. Mossman, 16 Sheffley Cres., Weston, Ontario M9R 2W4

REMINISCING WITH RETA

by Marlene Madore

Reta Calhoun's home at 176 Rosemount Ave. has been in her family's possession for 103 years. Built in 1861, her grandmother bought it for \$450.

Reta's father, Charles Calhoun, born in Weston in 1870, worked as a boy in the Weston woolen mills at Wilby Cres. His step-father put him out to work at the young age of eleven and he worked at the woolen mills until they closed down.

He then worked on the street cars on the Toronto Suburban street car line. In 1899, Charles married Tillie Franks and they left to live in Hespeler where Reta and her younger sister Janet were born.

The family moved back to the Rosemount Ave. home (which was then known as North Station Street) in 1904, when Reta was just four years old. Reta, as a child, remembered a few farm houses like the Tyrrell's, still standing at the corner of Rosemount Ave. and King St. and the McKittrick's that stood on a hill near the present corner of Cypress Ave. and Church St.

Mrs. Wadsworth also had a farm she called Springmount and when that property was cut through, they called the new street after that name. Neighbours living in the home at the corner of Rosemount Ave. and Church St. ran a slaughter house right behind their property.

Reta attended the old Weston Public School where H.J. Alexander School presently stands, and 65 years ago, finished her schooling at the old Weston High School.

The town has changed a lot for Reta. Eagle Ave. became Dufferin St., then Lawrence Ave., and Main St. became Weston Rd. Miss Scott had a grocery store on Main St. across from Church St. There was a post office at the corner of Church St. and Main St. where the street car line ended.

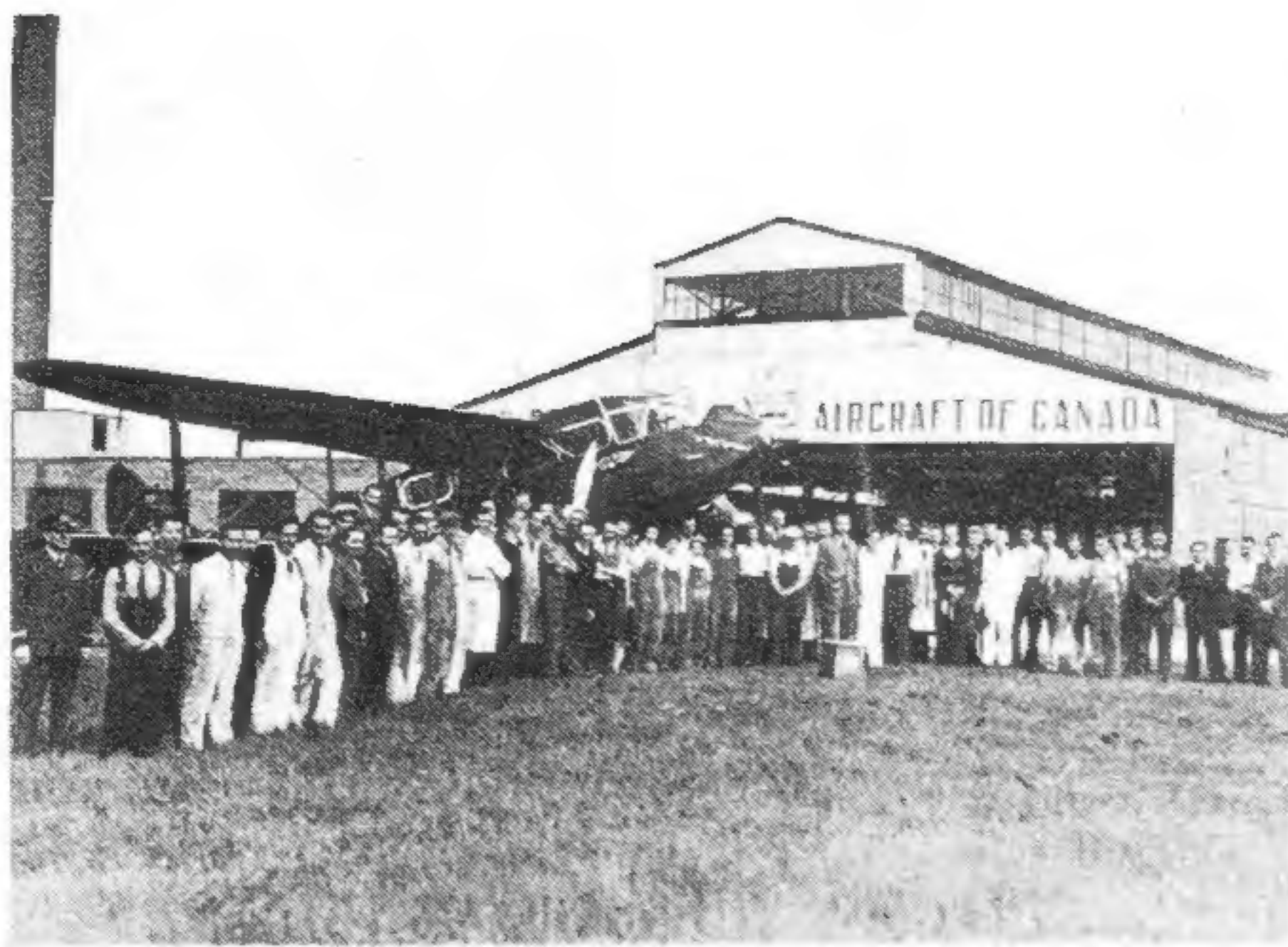
Next to this was Finnigan's that Red and White Stores purchased later to become Al's Variety. At the southwest corner of Eagle Ave. and Main St. was a grocery store and butcher shop that boasted a brick sidewalk with a canopy cover. Jimmy Robinson's grocery and dry goods store occupied the corner where the Bank of Nova Scotia now stands.

The sounds of the steam engine whistle and the bells from Mr. Watson's sleigh were familiar to Reta as he went door to door selling his headcheese, sausage, fish and produce.

In 1908, motor cars became popular and Charles Calhoun obtained work apprenticing at the Russel Motor Car Company, located on the former site of Acme Screw and Gear Company on Weston Rd. He opened Weston's first repair garage on Little Ave. (presently converted to apartments) in 1913, where he sold and serviced such cars as Jewett, Graham-Page, Graham and Gray-Dorte.

Reta's mother died in 1916 and from 1922 to 1935, the family lived in quarters over the garage on Little Ave. It was during this time that Charles drove for the Volunteer Fire Brigade and kept up their batteries for \$1. per month.

Reta started work for C.C.M. in 1942 when they were producing war materials and enjoyed employment with them until 1955. She is presently very active in her church, has taken up a new hobby of weaving and keeping up her heritage home.



De Lesseps flying field, located at the corner of Jane and Tretheway, was a scene of the first flying demonstration ever staged in the Toronto area. Here, the staff of De Havilland's Weston plant pose with a DH86 Dragon Rapid, one of Canada's earliest business aircraft.

De Havilland Aircraft Co. Born On Jane St.

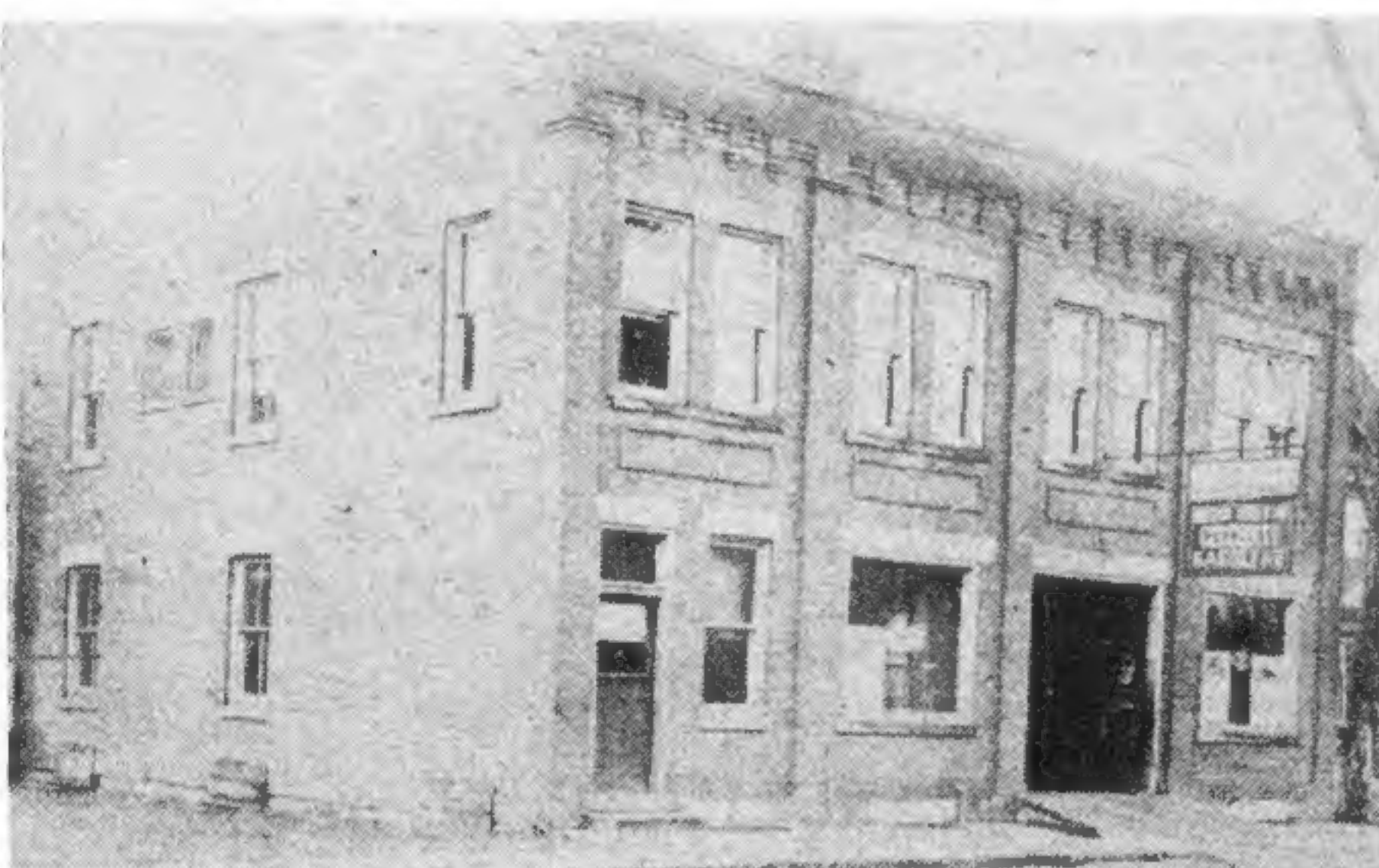
Weston and aviation have been linked for over 70 years.

A landing field was prepared at the corner of Jane St. and Tretheway for an aviation display, held July 9, 1910. Visiting French aviator, Jacques de Lesseps flew through vicious winds and rains to a height of 800 feet, but could only stay in the air for six minutes.

Thousands of people watched breathlessly as he tried again on

July 13. This time de Lesseps climbed his little Scarabee monoplane to a height of 2,000 feet, cruising the sky over Toronto at a speed of 40 miles per hour. After landing, his fellow aviators carried him shoulder high to receive triumphant official congratulations.

This flying field became known as de Lesseps field and the first site of the de Havilland Aircraft Company of Canada.



Charles Calhoun, Reta's father, opened Weston's first automobile repair garage on Little Ave. The building is now an apartment house.

Weston Presbyterian Church

continued from page 5.

energy. In one year, he had the church's debt of \$550 completely wiped out. The magnitude of this feat can be appreciated, when you consider that in present day currency, the debt would be about \$40,000. In August 1902, he asked the congregation to renovate the church, put in new furnaces, enlarge the Sunday School, and install a pipe organ. After the meeting, a member was heard to remark — "Well, we have a crazy man for a minister". The congregation approved the plans on condition that the minister be responsible for raising the funds to cover the total cost of \$3,100. A pipe organ, which we have to this day, was bought for \$1,000. Services were held in the town

hall during renovations, and re-opening services were held on Dec. 8, 1902.

The church continued to grow, and in 1912, the congregation built Westminster Hall on Main St., across from the present Odeon Theatre. Unfortunately, this division of facilities led to a rift in the congregation, because one faction wanted to move the church to the new hall, and the other wished to remain on Cross St. Those that wished to move, won out, and Westminster became the official Presbyterian Church.

The old church on Cross St., having been sold, it was bought back by a number of old members, and operated for about six years as an independent Presbyterian Church.

In 1947, Creelman Hall was built to provide for the needs of the congregation which was grow-

Researching Your Home

By Judi Latour

Have you ever wondered how old your house is? How many owners were there before you? And just who was the original owner?

If you are at all curious, why not find out? All it takes is a trip downtown to Toronto City Hall to their Land Titles Office. They have all the records on file to answer anything that you wanted to know.

The Land Titles Department is located on the second floor of the City Hall with the entrance being off Bay Street. Before you go down, you must have one important piece of information with you — the legal description of your property. They need to know the Lot Number and Plan Number of your property. This is available from the assessment roles at the Borough of York. It only costs you \$1.00 for the privilege of looking through their records which is a small price for curiosity.

Once you have paid your \$1.00 at the cashier, go over to the clerk's counter and begin. We started off with the latest Land Titles, which was our own, and worked our way backwards in time. We gave the clerk our Plan and Lot Numbers and he pulled the appropriate ledger from their files.

In these ledgers you will find listed any transactions concerning your property such as transfers, purchases or leins. If you find that there is a particular transaction that you want to peruse, you may request this at the adjacent counter where they have everything on microfilm for you to view.

Copies of any particular page in the Titles book are around .50¢ per page. For a small fee you can also get copies of the transactions from the microfilm as well.

The Land Titles records in this section only go back to about 1900-1920. If you wish to research any further, you will have to go over to the Land Registry Office. They have the records back to the origin of the property. We were able to trace our property back to the 1840's.

Also at this department copies of the plans of your property (or "whiteprints" as they call them) are available. The cost for the whiteprints are \$1.00 each. They are only too happy to pull out any map you wish to look at before deciding which one you want.

It's interesting to look at some of those old plans — just see how your property has changed over the years. On our particular property we were able to see how it had been subdivided over the years and where the roads had been re-routed and names changed. On a plan we have dated 1864, the map isn't drawn to scale in feet and inches but rather in chains per inch and the areas were measured in roods and perches.

On one of the earlier maps we obtained, it was amusing to see Weston Road noted as the "Albion of Weston Plank Road" and another with an arrow on the map indicating that this was the direction to London, Ontario.

If you wondered in what year your house was built, you can find that information out by phoning the Borough Assessment Office and asking them. They have that information on file and it is most recently being used on the Government Insulation Grants.

Now that you know how to go about it, why not go downtown to City Hall and satisfy your curiosity? What you may discover will surprise you!

Westminster United Church

continued from page 4.

were special events, Lion's Club dinners, Rotary, fall fairs, picnics, concerts, fashion shows, luncheons, Meals-on-Wheels.

In March 1973, we were able to burn our mortgage.

You perhaps have noted I have used no names in this history. A building is nothing without people, and where do you begin or end trying to name them? Each one is important.

Westminster Congregation is to celebrate their 125th Anniversary in 1983. Plans are being made and I am sure you will hear names of members, past and present, who have made Westminster "A Friendly Family Church" down through the years.

MINISTERS WHO HAVE SERVED

Rev. D.B. Pearce
1858 - 1859
Rev. Robert Pettigrew
1872 - 1883
Rev. Walter Reid
1884 - 1900
Rev. R.M. Hamilton
1901 - 1909
Rev. A.H. MacGilliveray
1908 - 1912
Rev. J.W.H. Milne
1912 - 1914
Rev. T.A. Symington
1914 - 1916
Rev. Forbes Robertson
1916 - 1925
Rev. G. Ernest Forbes
1925 - 1939
Rev. Kingsley J. Joblin
1940 - 1946
Rev. Charles A. McLaren
1946 - 1951
Rev. James MacKenzie
1952 - 1964
Rev. J. Kenneth Nobel
1965 - 1968
Rev. Donald Reed
1968 - 1973
Rev. Leslie D. Upward
1974 -

ing rapidly in the post war years. In 1951, renovations were made to the Sanctuary which not only preserved the original beauty of the building, but greatly enhanced it.

In Canada's Centennial Year 1967, further enlargements and improvements were made. In the years since the war, properties were acquired for the manse and church office which resulted in the parking lot which is invaluable today.

St. John The Evangelist Church

continued from page 4.

On Dec. 20, 1953 the first mass was celebrated in the partially completed new building. On completion, the new brick church seated 408. Ironically in the same year the old frame building burned down. During the past 26 years the parish has continued to grow in numbers. With this growth stemmed a continual need for community gatherings, spiritually and socially. Parishes such as Brampton's St. Thomas Aquinas, St. Matthew and Our Lady of Victory grew from St. John's.

The parish hall has in the past housed such groups as the St. Vincent de Paul Society, the Holy Name Society, The Catholic Women's League and the Humber Valley Knights of Columbus established it's beginnings here.

Weston Centennial Dances

Saturday, June 13, 1981

LOCATION 1

H.M.C.S. ILLUSTRIOUS

8 p.m. — 12 midnight

C'mon and Boogie with us with
B.R. & The Sunshine Band

LOCATION 2

WESTON FAIRGROUNDS

7 p.m. — 12 a.m.

Old Tyme & Country music plus a square dance show with the
Harold Harton Square Dance Troupe

\$3.00 per person

TWO DANCES FOR ONE PRICE
(includes a chance on a lucky draw)

Community Service Top Priority At Humber Memorial Hospital

by Claudia Anderson,
Director of Community Relations

From the beginning more than 30 years ago, the story of Humber Memorial Hospital has been one of community service.

Inspiration for the hospital's development came from a group of community spirited citizens. Humber Memorial was built in 1950 to serve a community; it grew to keep up with an expanding population.

Sense of community continues to support the hospital, both from within and without. Today, even with 352 beds, Humber Memorial is small enough for patients, physicians and staff to know each other. At the same time, the hospital is large enough to be involved in many areas of specialized care that Humber in now identified as "... more than a community hospital."

As one walks through Humber Memorial Hospital today, the 55-bed hospital on Church Street that opened in November 1950 seems both long ago and far away.

Humber's story began just after World War II when veterans returned home, returned to jobs and families, and began building new lives. Suburban growth exploded and with it came the need for an outlying hospital to serve the town of Weston and adjacent areas.

Humber Memorial came into existence because of the hard work of a public-spirited group of citizens who recognized the need for a hospital and had the determination to turn an idea into reality. Built at 200 Church Street: a 55-bed hospital with two operating rooms, an emergency treatment room, two delivery rooms and a 22-cubicle nursery.

Five years later it was necessary to add another 60 beds. A one-storey double corridor wing with new maternity facilities opened in 1955.

By the beginning of the '60s, Humber Memorial was into its second expansion program and by April 1962, patients were accommodated on the top floor of the six-storey tower wing. In successive months the remaining floors of the tower addition were opened, providing 180 new beds, half for medical services and half for surgical.

In addition, a 20-bed children's ward was opened on the second floor, with an additional 27 beds designated for obstetrical and gynecological cases. By 1963 the hospital had 344 beds, 476 employees and 13 departments; in 1980 it had 352 beds, approximately 700 full-time employees, and 170 admitting physicians.

A well-developed and organized Registered Nursing Assistants' School conducted by the hospital proved successful, providing the hospital with a continuing supply of trained auxiliary nursing personnel. And in September 1965 the Osler School of Nursing enrolled its first class of students. Its permanent building, adjacent to Humber Memorial, was completed as the '60s drew to a close.

By 1967 still another major expansion was being planned. Everyone associated with Humber Memorial remembers the mid-70's as a time of bricks, mortar, some confusion, — a time when resources were strained, and yet a time when everyone rallied to provide continuing patient care in the face of a major building project.

Actual construction began September 23, 1974. The new wing, more than doubling the existing floor space and providing extensive new facilities, was completed in 1976; renovations to the older structure came afterward with everything just about ready when the hospital officially was opened and re-dedicated on November 11, 1977, 27 years after the first dedication.

Acquisition of a CT Scanner in the late 1970's, purchased without government assistance, enhanced Humber's physicians ability to diagnose and treat. Humber Memorial has the only CT scanner in the northwest Metropolitan Toronto and offers use to nearby hospitals. Service cost, estimated at almost \$170,000 for 1981, is supported entirely by the hospital.

So the Humber story has been one of a building - pushing out, growing upward, expanding, changing. But most of all, it's been the story of people - from members of the Rotary Clubs of Weston and Mount Dennis who dedicated themselves to building Toronto's first suburban hospital, to doctors who have served the community with commitment and skills, to staff who have formed lasting links with the community of patients they serve, to Humber Memorial Auxiliary members who have offered hours of volunteer service and on-going financial support.



If you were expecting or ill in the early '40's, you had your baby, or tonsils or appendix removed at the Weston Maternity Hospital, located where the present post office is located. All other cases went to the city. Maplehurst Maternity Hospital, corner of John and Rosemount took over until Humber Memorial hospital was opened in 1950.

West Park Hospital Was Toronto Sanatorium

Reflections of Hospital History,
West Park Hospital
by Hughie Montgomerie

In interviewed Dr. Godfrey Gale recently about his book, *The Changing Years*, and his involvement in the West Park Hospital.

Dr. Gale wrote his book, *The Changing Years*, about two years ago. When asked, "Does it help a patient to know he or she is in a modern building, with the utmost care around them?" He replied, "Yes, because they have the benefit of modern equipment". There has been tremendous progress made in the fight against tuberculosis, a barely known disease these days, but a devastation in years gone by.

I asked "Can you tell me some of the history of West Park Hospital?" He replied, "It started out as a tuberculosis sanatorium called 'The Toronto Free Hospital for the Consumptive Poor'. After some years of operation, its name was changed to West Park Hospital because tuberculosis cases had really decreased in Canada.

Dr. Gale started working in the hospital in 1947 under Dr. C.A. Wicks, who was head of the staff of doctors working in the hospital. Now retired, Dr. Gale is keeper of the archives at West Park Hospital.

Over at West Park Hospital, people can be seen hurrying around because a movie is being made about the ordeal of the hostages in Iran. The movie stars Gordon Pinsent as ambassador Ken Taylor, who smuggled 6 Americans to safety.

To obtain a copy of Dr. Gale's book, *The Changing Years*, write to: West Park Hospital, 82 Buttonwood Avenue, Toronto, M6M 2J5.

Dr. Gale has made a lasting contribution to the West Park Hospital and Weston by his book, and his devoted work at the hospital.

Interview with
Dr. Godfrey Gale

St. Philip's Church Established ...

continued from page 2.

it was moved to a Musson family building, formerly run by the Widow Ward as a tavern.

In April 1864, Dr. Johnson proposed the school come under the supervision of Trinity University and that it be called Trinity College School. The half-basement of the Rectory Road parsonage was outfitted as a schoolroom in May, 1865, and the large upper room served as a dormitory.

By 1868, 60 boys were enrolled and the school was housed at 56 King Street. The school was moved to its present location in Port Hope in 1871.

St. Philip's Church burned to the ground in May, 1880 and for the next six years the parishioners attended services at the Dr. Johnson's chapel. A split in the congregation occurred in October, 1893.

St. John's Church separated from the Parish Church of St. Philip's, and soon after, Mr. Rob-jent persuaded the church wardens to move the church to a more central location. Although negotiations for a new site dragged on, a start was made before spring thaw by moving the church on rollers down Main Street.

The was was obstructed by a telegraph line and the structure had to sit until arrangements would be made. Unfortunately the spring thaw came and the building bogged down in the street. It was pulled off the right-of-way to a piece of unoccupied land beside the street and left sitting at a slight angle. It was never moved from that site.

Subsequently, the church was encased in brick and given additional improvement, but the nucleus of St. John's Church is the original St. John's Chapel of Ease.

St. Philip's parishioners, unhappy with these developments resolved to rebuild their church on its original site. By October 1894, they had completed a new church and re-established their congregation. A parish hall was added in 1955.

Railway's of 1800's Make Weston Boom

RAILWAYS IN WESTON

To be a station on the railway lines was a terrific growth factor to the Town of Weston. The first railway to come through Weston was the Ontario, Simcoe and Huron Railway built through the town in 1853. It helped considerably to increase the efficiency of the mail service, previously handled by the stage coaches.

Farmers found it ideal for transportation of produce and supplies to and from Toronto. The Ontario, Simcoe and Huron Railway was commonly called the 'Oats, Straw and Hay' Railway. It later changed its name to the Northern Railway of Canada.

A few years later Weston was considered as a station for the new Grand Trunk Railway. Weston citizens were eager to have the railway come through the town. However difficulties arose and a rivalry started up when Mr. John Scarlett made an offer to the railway company in an effort to persuade them to build through on the west bank of the Humber. For a while it looked bad for the town but Weston finally won out.

On July 1, 1856 celebrations in Weston heralded the opening of the Grand Trunk line through Weston. The Grand Trunk Railway soon became the most



Main St., 1904.



Foundry, Weston Road, across the street from Coulter Ave.

Town of Weston 40 Years Ago

Everything seems to have changed so much since I moved to Weston with my family in 1935 that unless I put down onto paper an account of some of these changes over the years they will be forgotten.

A little time after I arrived in Canada, Lou Farr, who was in the same office as I was, said he was going to Weston to look over a piece of land he was thinking of buying on the other side of the Humber River and would I care to come.

We took the train — walked to Dufferin Street (which used to be called Eagle Avenue) and crossed the bridge, which was a somewhat old iron one. The bridge was badly damaged during Hurricane Hazel on the 15th October 1954 and later replaced by a handsome concrete bridge and the road renamed Lawrence Avenue.

On the East Bank of the river was quite a large piece of land called the Fair Grounds with a pedestrian swing bridge crossing the river at the South end of the grounds. The yearly Fall Fair was held there and it was used for many other outside activities including trotting races, lacrosse games, hockey and an occasional cricket game as well as exercising the horses kept at the livery stables just opposite on Dufferin Street and owned by Mr. Mobbs, who also ran the blacksmith's shop on South Station Street. The Fair Grounds have now practically disappeared and the land now occupied partly by the Weston Arena, Swimming Pool and H.M.C.S. Illustrious, the Naval Cadets H.Q. in Weston. Weston Tennis Club have their courts there and every year on the 24th of May, the Weston Lions put on a Fireworks Display.

In 1935 the C.P.R. ran a commuter train to Toronto. It wasn't much of an affair just one carriage and an engine. In the morning going down to Toronto the engine was in front pulling and coming back pushing. The service was no doubt for the benefit and convenience of the many railroad men who lived here.

At the North corner of Main and Dufferin Streets (now corner of Weston & Lawrence) there was a large hotel called the Eagle House in front of which was a wooden verandah with rocking chairs where patrons could sit and keep an eye on the activities of their neighbors. An extremely good dinner was served on Sundays, so good that many neighbouring families would prefer to have dinner there than go to the bother of cooking at home.

David Rowntree's shop opposite on the West was triangular in shape with a couple of steps to go down to the entrance. Bridgeman, the butcher had his shop next to Rowntree's on the Weston Road side and the sidewalk was laid with brick. The dwelling quarters over Bridgeman's projected over the sidewalk which was a great boon if you were caught in a shower.

There was a very fine Town Hall (for its age) in which was hung a large bell that was rung every morning at 7 A.M. to wake everybody up and again at 6 P.M. to tell everyone it was time to go home for supper. It was also rung for fires. The last time I recall hearing the bell rung was when a number of citizens congregated at the Town Hall to celebrate the end of World War II and rang the bell with joy and happiness.

One of the events of the year in the Town Hall was Nomination Meeting Night when the Mayor and Council were nominated. It was always a most lively affair. No punches were pulled and nobody took any offence at the hard things that were said or the most uncomplimentary remarks made about a candidate's lack of ability.

On the 11th of June 1941 a young oak tree was brought over by ship from Windsor Forest and with due ceremony planted in the Town Park. It is a remarkably fine bushy tree today and can shelter many people under its branches on a rainy day. An imposing Cenotaph has been erected at the entrance to the Park off King Crescent.

One of the greatest changes here is the present lack of building lots for single dwelling houses and the rapid growth of the population. There is very little land available now and even the land around the C.P.R. station with its pretty flower gardens surrounded by a hedge of small fir trees has been sold and replaced by single dwelling bungalows.

In front of the High School was the football field which was partly cut up into allotments during the last war and used by people around for growing vegetables.

A streetcar used to run down Main Street to the Junction where you had to change if you wanted to go down to the shopping district of Toronto. The street car to the Junction was a somewhat rickety affair, in which there was a coal stove to warm the car in winter. There was a box of coal in the car which had to be put on the stove.

Behind Chapman's Garage on Dufferin Street opposite the Fair Grounds was a very large barn used as a car workshop, in winter the windows were left open and water poured on the floor which froze making a skating rink where many minor hockey teams would play.

As soon as the Second World War started the Weston Civil Guard was organized under Major G.H. Wilkes and a little later was known as the A.R.P. under Captain M.J. Lepingwell and a thorough course of Air Raid Police training was started. The entire area was divided up into Sections with proper highly trained Wardens, all of them holding the St. John's Ambulance Corps Certificate and with a supply of fire fighting equipment and other supplies such as shovels, buckets etc. Over 500 men and women took the full course of A.R.P. lectures which were held weekly in Memorial School.

Written by the late
M.J. Lepingwell, age 88, Dec. 18/77
and donated by his daughter,
Barbara Leewis

Arbitration

It is the desire of some of the outside part of the present school section to be relieved from paying taxes to the village school and to form a new school section.

At Saturday's Town Hall meeting, we noticed Mr. J. Linton, chairman and Mr. Jos. Johnston, sec'y of the School Board, Mr. Henry Welsh, Reeve Bull, Councilor Kaake.

The arbitrators are Mr. Henry Duncan for the township, Mr. J. Cruickshank for the village, Mr. Fotheringham, chairman and Mr. Clerk Leighton, secretary.

Mr. Johnston impressed his views upon the Board - which afterwards met in secret session, refusing the presence of the press to take notes.

We understood no decision was come to, a little more expense being added through not having proper information at hand to form a decision.

The probability is the outside portion will be separated from the village as regards to school purposes.

Reprinted from The Weston Times, Sept. 12, 1890 issue

Centennial Events May 31st to June 20th

Sunday, May 31, 1981
2:00 p.m.

3:30 p.m.

7:30 p.m.

Sunday, June 7, 1981
1:30 p.m.

2:00 - 4:30 p.m.
\$1.00 admission

Saturday, June 13, 1981

7:00 - 9:00 a.m.

11:00 - 12:30 p.m.

1:00 p.m. - dark

8:00 p.m.

Saturday, June 20, 1981

12:00 - 3:00 p.m.

\$1.00 admission

6:00 - 9:00 p.m.

\$2.00 admission

Navy League Inspection at the Illustrious.

Weston Historical Society presides at the unveiling of a commemorative plaque in Memorial Park on Little Avenue. The choir of H.J. Alexander School will sing the official Centennial Song and the Weston Silver Band will entertain.

Ecumenical Service of Thanksgiving at Central United Church with massed choirs and the Weston Silver Band.

University Women's Club provide two guided tours of historic Weston, starting at Memorial Park on Little Avenue.

Westonia Rebekahs preside at an open house and tea at the Oddfellows Hall, 24 Church Street.

The Lions Club and the Rotary Club have combined to present this fun filled day.

Pancake Breakfast and the Opening of the Farmer's Market on the John Street Parking Lot.

Grand Parade on Weston Road.

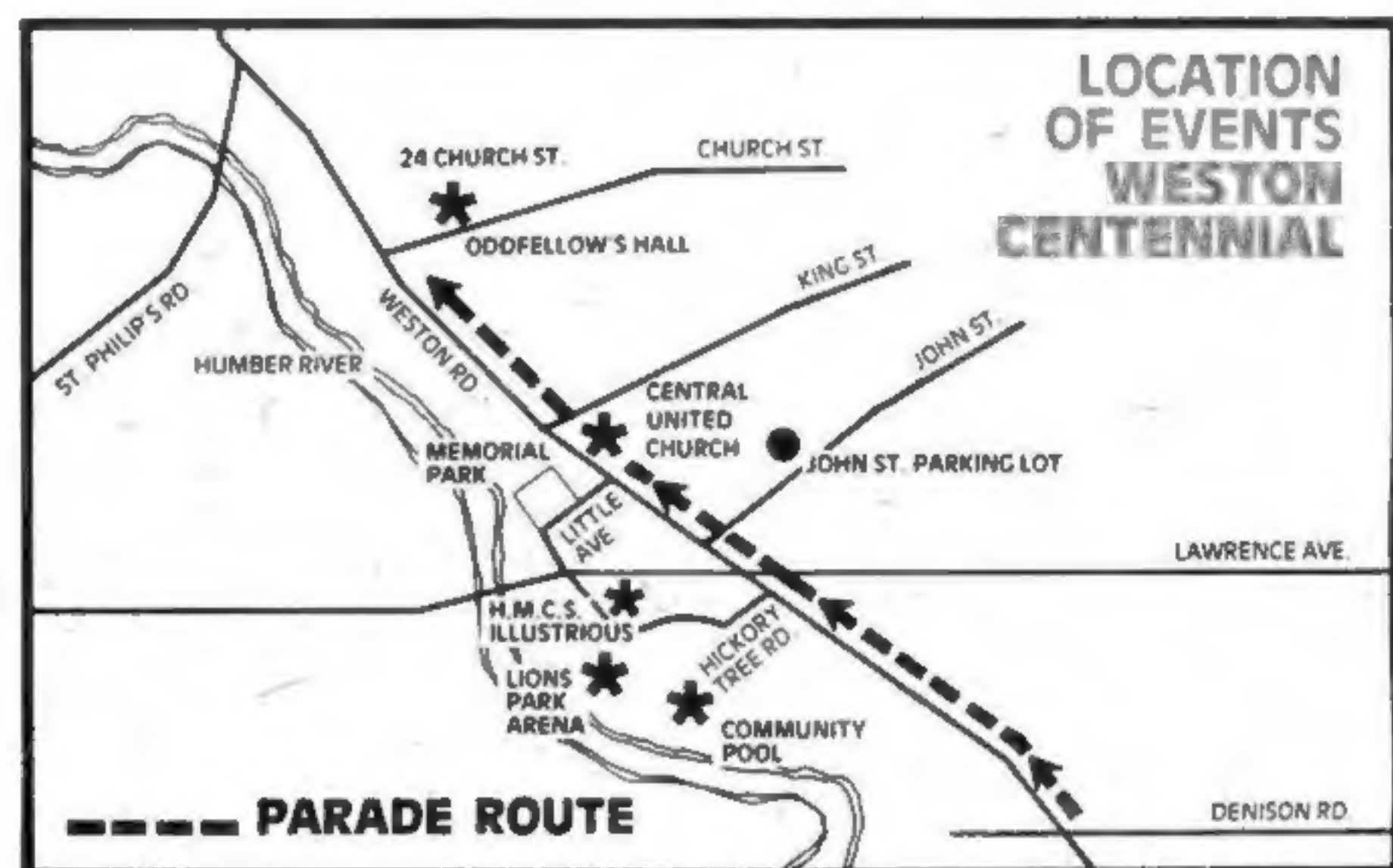
Fair and Family Picnic in Lions Park. Constant live entertainment, soap box derby, free ice skating, amusement rides, games of chance, pony rides, I.O.D.E. baking contest, sing along, Bavarian garden with Dixieland music.

Two dances:
Square dance at the Lions Community Pool.
Contemporary dance at the Illustrious.

Seniors Fair at the Illustrious.

Sale of Crafts. English Tea Garden. Displays by Service Agencies.

Sit-down dinner supplied by Meals-on-Wheels. Entertainment.



Railways

continued from page 15.

important railway system in eastern Canada and remained so for many years.

In 1870 a group of Toronto merchants planned to put into action the idea of a narrow gauge track of 3'6". Up until that time a standard gauge of 5'6" was used. The Grand Trunk allowed the group's company, The Toronto Grey and Bruce Railway Co. to put in an extra rail along the Grand Trunk right of way.

On Tuesday, October the fifth 1869, Weston was honoured with the presence of royalty. Prince Arthur of Connaught, later Duke of Connaught and war-time Governor-General of Canada performed the turning of the first sod of the Toronto, Grey and Bruce Railway. The ceremony took place beside the tracks at Oak St. Virtually all of Weston and many of Toronto's elite turned out to witness the ceremony and join in the celebrations afterwards.

In 1884 the Toronto Grey and Bruce Railway was leased to the Canadian Pacific Railway.

The coming of the first World War affected the railways severely. By 1917 both the Grand Trunk and the Canadian Northern were bankrupt. In the midst of a war, the government found itself helping both railways financially.

Thus, due to amalgamation, the two railways running through Weston today are publically owned through, the Canadian National and the Canadian Pacific Railways.



The Grand Trunk Railway Station, above, later became the Canadian National Railway property when the Grand Trunk company went bankrupt in 1917. This photo was taken prior to the take-over.



A board walk extended from King St. to John St. and right along the frontage of the Canadian Pacific Railway's station, located near John St. Citizens tried to save this venerable building a few years ago, but to no avail.